Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-016
Tuesday
25 January 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-016 25 January 1994

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th on Postponed Security Committee Meeting *[MENA]* 1
Civilian Affairs Committee Postpones Work *[MENA]* 1
Jordanian Envoy on Washington Talks, U.S. Role *[Amman TV]* 1
12th Round Peace Talks Open in Washington 2
Israeli Envoy Welcomes King Husayn Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
First Session Held *[Amman Radio]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni on Talks With U.S. Delegation *[Jerusalem International]* 2
PLO Reformists Seek To Amend Constitution *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Jan]* 3
Opposition Factions 'Leadership Committee' Meets *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Jan]* 4
Central Command Members Nominated *[AL-RA'Y 21 Jan]* 5
DFLP's Hawatimah on Peace, Syrian Position *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 22 Jan]* 5
DFLP's Khalid on Geneva Summit, Oslo Accord *[AL-ASWAQ 24 Jan]* 7
Arab Unity Urged To Stop Israel's Thwarting Peace *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 21 Jan]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Draft Project To Be Presented to Conference *[Algiers TV]* 10
Participation in National Conference Viewed 10
Islamic HAMAS To Take Part *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Union, Martyrs' Children To Attend *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Socialist Front Justifies Boycott *[Paris Radio]* 11
Sixty Prisoners Released From Security Center *[Algiers Radio]* 11

Egypt

Musa Returns From Israel With Rabin's Message *[Cairo Radio]* 11
Envoy To Israel on Musa's Visit, Golan Referendum *[Cairo International]* 11
Cairo Renews Effort To Resolve Libya-West Crisis *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Jan]* 12
PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Arrives on Visit *[MENA]* 12

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech in Banghazi *[Tripoli TV]* 12

Mauritania

Several Arrested for Fraud Before Local Polls *[AFP]* 16
Head of Human Rights Association Arrested *[AFP]* 16
International Community Seeks Release *[Libreville Radio]* 17

Morocco

Iranian Ambassador Calls For Expansion of Ties *[IRNA]* 17

Sudan

Islamic Conference Secretary General Begins Visit *[SUNA]* 18
Meets With Foreign Minister *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Agreement Establishes Joint Bank With China *[SUNA]* 18

Tunisia

Higher Joint Committee Established With Qatar *[Tunis TV]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Defense Minister on UK, U.S. Military Ties *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Jan]* 19
Amir, Prime Minister Receive Indian Minister *[WAKH]* 20

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives PLO's 'Arafat in Riyadh *[Riyadh Radio]* 20
PLO Aide Discusses Meeting *[AFP]* 20

Yemen

Salih Chairs Presidential Council Meeting *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Salih Receives Envoy, Invitation To Visit Jordan *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Al-Bid Also Invited *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Prime Minister Al-'Attas: Accord 'Last Chance' *[AL-DUSTUR 24 Jan]* 22
National Committee Demand May Delay Pact Signing
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Jan] 24
Signing of Accord Faces Difficulties Over Venue *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Jan]* 25
Al-'Attas Fears for Life Upon Return to Sanaa *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 25

IRAQ

Al-Sahhaf Briefs Assembly Committee on Foreign Policy *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Columnist on al-Asad 'Agreements' With U.S., Israel *[AL-THAWRAH 21 Jan]* 26
Resistance Claims Killing of 2 Regime Personnel *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 26
Official Criticizes Continued UN 'Blockade' *[BABIL 20 Jan]* 27
Editorial: Use Exchange Rates To Judge Government *[BABIL 20 Jan]* 27
U.S. 'Spy' Plane Violations Protested to UN *[INA 25 Jan]* 28

ISRAEL

Rabin on Negotiations With Jordan, Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Rabin Consults With Peres, Leaves for Strasbourg *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Rabin on Labor Adherence to Territorial Compromise *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Shahaq on Talks, Fugitives, 'War' in Lebanon *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Ministries Approve Allocation for Redeployment *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 21 Jan]* 30
Committee Plans for Jerusalem Expansion Detailed *[HA'ARETZ 25 Jan]* 30
Opposition Claims Victory in Golan Resolution Vote *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Labor Mayor Ousts Likud Man for Local Council Chair *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Moledet Knesset Member Gutman To Establish Rival List *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
NRP Submits No-Confidence Motion Over Yeshiva *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Mordekhay on Anticipated Escalation in Lebanon *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
'Acting' Central Command Head Appointed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
IDF Reports Provide Casualty Data for 1993 *[HA'ARETZ 20 Jan, etc]* 33
Ministry Denies Reported Plans for U.S. Fleet Base *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Perry Nomination Welcomed; 'Fair' Approach Noted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Egypt Seeks Gas Deal, Concerned Over Qatari Contacts *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Shahal: All Crude Oil Now Bought in Arab World *[Jerusalem New Channel TV]* 34

Shahal Rejects Russian Nuclear Technology Deal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Clinton's Space Industry Message Met With 'Doubt' *[HA'ARETZ 20 Jan]* 34
Mukhtar Shot Dead for 'Cooperating' With Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Man Stabbed to Death by Arab in Rishon Leziyyon *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Motorist Injured in Stoning Incident *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Gaza Explosion Injures 2 Soldiers, 4 Arabs *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Houses Allegedly Damaged by IDF Missiles in Gaza *[Jerusalem New Channel TV]* 35

JORDAN

King Briefs U.S. Arab Envoys on Clinton Meeting *[JORDAN TIMES 24 Jan]* 36
Prince Hasan: Tests Show King 'Completely Cured' *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Jan]* 36
King's Adviser Returns From Visit to Yemen *[Amman TV]* 36
Al-'Aqabah Mayor Rejects Invitation To Visit Elat *[AL-RA'Y 25 Jan]* 36
Status of Secondary Boycott Firms To Be Studied *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Jan]* 36
U.S. Reaction to Golan Referendum Proposal Viewed *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Jan]* 37
U.S.-Jordanian Military Committee To Meet *[JORDAN TIMES 20-21 Jan]* 37
U.S. Rabbinical Delegation Departs After Visit *[JORDAN TIMES 22 Jan]* 38
Health Minister Protests Leniency to Lawbreakers *[SHIHAN 22-28 Jan]* 39
Crown Prince Calls For Probe *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Jan]* 39
Islamic Front Leader Explains Position on Peace *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 39
Two Leftist Parties Decide on Merger *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Jan]* 40

LEBANON

Roundup of 24-25 Jan Clashes in Southern Region 41
SLA Positions Shelled *[Kafr Killa Radio]* 41
Israelis Shell Villages *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Israeli Unit Crosses Border Strip *[RFL]* 41
Amal Attacks 'Occupation Forces' *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Al-Hirawi, Birri Leave for Syria To Offer Condolences *[RFL]* 41
Disagreements Reportedly Cause Discord in Hizballah *[London AL-HAYAH 22 Jan]* 41

SYRIA

Clinton-al-Asad Meeting in Geneva Described *[AL-SAFIR 18 Jan]* 43
Belgian Foreign Trade Minister Arrives on Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Urbain Offers Condolences, Holds Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 48

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Current Military, Political Situation Explained *[MENA]* 49
Iranian Ambassador Discusses Peace Efforts *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Peshawar Sources Say Rabbani Forces Fire Scuds *[THE FRONTIER POST 23 Jan]* 50

India

Islamabad Receives 6 Proposals To Settle Issues *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Police Official Views Clinton Letter on Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Issues Reviewed 51
Revision of 'Discriminatory' NPT Stressed *[Delhi International]* 51
Declaration Considered 'Anti-India Move' *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 17 Jan]* 51
Defense Ministry Comments on Fighter Project *[DINAMALAR 13 Jan]* 52

Iran

Cabinet, Majles Deputies Hold Joint Session *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Khamene'i's Meets With Turkmenistan President *[Tabriz Radio]* 53
Tehran-Turkmenistan Ties Viewed *[Tabriz Radio]* 53

Velayati Meets With Afghan Foreign Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Deputy Foreign Minister Meets DPRK Parliament Speaker *[IRNA]* 54
Efforts To End Nagarno-Karabakh War Viewed *[Tabriz Radio]* 54
ABRAR Sees Need for Tehran To Form Alliances *[12 Jan]* 55
France Accuses Tehran in Bakhtiar Assassination *[Tehran Radio]* 55

Nepal

Koirala Meets Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister *[AFP]* 55

Pakistan

Afghan Coordination Council Meetings Reviewed 56
Rabbani Opponents Present Peace Plan *[AFP]* 56
Regional Peace Conference Proposed *[Islamabad TV]* 56
Minister Offers To Host Peace Meeting *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Afghan Leaders Reportedly 'Inflexible' *[THE NEWS 25 Jan]* 57
Bhutto Reaffirms Commitment to Kashmir Cause *[Islamabad TV]* 57

Sri Lanka

Fire Bombing Protests LTTE Executions *[Colombo International]* 59

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th on Postponed Security Committee Meeting

NC2401193794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Two Palestinian officials have attributed the postponement of tomorrow's meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Security Affairs Committee until next week to the ongoing political efforts to eliminate the obstacles to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, has stated that the Palestinian delegation was forced to postpone the talks to make room for the political efforts to eliminate the obstacles.

In a statement to MENA today, Sha'th commended the role that President Mubarak is playing to eliminate the obstacles and boost the peace effort. He remarked that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel and his talks with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres were within the context of Egyptian efforts to eliminate the obstacles. He explained that Musa carried to Israel a Palestinian paper outlining the Palestinian vision of how to resolve outstanding issues. He hoped Israel would respond positively in this connection.

Sha'th added that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat would return to Cairo tomorrow to meet President Mubarak and 'Amr Musa and discuss the Israeli reply, which Musa brought back with him. [passage omitted]

Civilian Affairs Committee Postpones Work

NC2501125894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Taba, 25 Jan (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Civilian Affairs Committee, tasked with transferring civilian powers from the Israelis to the Palestinians in accordance with the Gaza-Jericho agreement, has postponed its session scheduled for today until next week.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Palestinian radio and television corporation, which is still under formation, has told MENA that in its two sessions yesterday the committee discussed only the question of communications, particularly the establishment of a Palestinian radio and television in the Palestinian self-rule region. He noted that the French Government has earmarked $30 million to set up this important facility.

The one-day session in Taba of the Civilian Affairs Committee, under Lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi on the Palestinian side and Gadi Zohar, head of the Israeli Civilian Administration in the West Bank, is the fastest round of talks yet held between the two sides.

The Security and Civilian Affairs Committees are scheduled to resume their sessions in Taba next Monday [31 January], by which time the diplomatic maneuvers that Egypt is carrying out with Israel to overcome the obstacles to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement will have been clarified.

MENA has learned that the Palestinian delegation, led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th and comprised of Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army; Hasan 'Asfur; and Dr. Camille Mansur met today in Cairo to discuss the Israeli reply brought back by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in preparation for a meeting with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Cairo today from Riyadh.

Jordanian Envoy on Washington Talks, U.S. Role

JN2401195794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to the United States Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, in Washington, by Kassab Samawi in Amman; on 24 January—recorded]

[Text] [Samawi] Dr. Fayiz, since the last round of the peace talks, the peace process has witnessed rapid and extremely important developments. The most important of these developments were the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the mutual recognition, as well as the Arab-U.S. summits, foremost of which were the meeting which was held between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton, and the Syrian president's meeting with the U.S. President. Can you tell us about the impact of these developments' on the peace process?

[Al-Tarawinah] There are many points. Of course, there are positive signs, particularly that all sides have announced their commitment to the peace process itself. However, we want to clarify the bases and to further test intentions and the negotiations process itself. This is because there are detailed issues. There are also relevant principles. Therefore, the summit meetings are positive developments. Moreover, there were developments that made the situation more ambiguous, particularly the talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Based on this, we must test intentions, at the level of the negotiators, to define the nature and form of the next round of negotiations. We still insist on a full track that proceeds simultaneously with the other brothers, based on the Madrid formula and the terms of reference. Of course, we should take into consideration all the developments that have taken place. As for us, since we initialed the agenda on 14 September 1993, we have never had the chance to discuss items on this agenda. This is why we are concerned about a full track that proceeds simultaneously with the other brothers in order to be able to begin discussion of the details on the agenda.

[Samawi] Recent Arab-U.S. summits focused on the need for the U.S. Administration to play a more effective role in the peace process. What are your expectations regarding the U.S. role.

[Al-Tarawinah] The U.S. role at this stage, concerning consultations among heads of delegations, will be a facilitative role regarding preparation for and facilitating the meeting itself. However, taking into consideration that they are the cosponsor of the peace talks, we will update them. There will be direct contact with them. At the end of the consultations, which we do not know how long they will take, we and the U.S. side will hold a joint assessment in order to decide on the next stage. The U.S. side is tirelessly trying to create an atmosphere where all sides would eventually achieve progress. However, they will not directly participate in the meetings of the heads of delegations. They will take part in the assessment process at the end of the meeting. Each party will also hold separate consultations with the U.S. side.

12th Round Peace Talks Open in Washington

Israeli Envoy Welcomes King Husayn Remarks

TA2501063094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan, has welcomed King Husayn's remarks regarding his desire for a warm peace with Israel. The king made these remarks during a meeting with Jewish leaders in Washington. Mr. Rubinstein reacted to the king's remarks during the opening of the 12th round of peace talks in Washington. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports:

[Begin recording] [Golan] On the very day in which the unofficial meetings between the heads of the Syrian, Jordanian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks took place, King Husayn held his first meeting ever with Jewish leaders in Washington. When asked for details regarding Crown Prince Hasan's remarks to YEDI'OT AHARONOT on a warm peace, King Husayn said this includes economic cooperation between Israel and Jordan, joint projects in the Jordan Valley, a joint Jordanian-Israeli-Egyptian electricity grid, a road passing from Jordan to Egypt via Elat, etc.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, was naturally satisfied with these remarks:

[Rubinstein] Every remark by a senior Jordanian official—especially the king himself—regarding the contents of peace is an encouraging sign for the upcoming talks. Naturally, we welcome these remarks, but we could add to the king's list some other issues that could be dealt with in the negotiations. We would also like to hope that the rate of progress will meet our expectations.

[Golan] All its goodwill notwithstanding, it is clear that Jordan is not rushing to sign a peace treaty with Israel because of what is referred to here as regional constraints—namely, Syria and the Palestinians. [end recording] [passage omitted]

First Session Held

JN2501074394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] A new round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, the first since last September, began in Washington last night. No information was released on the first session of these talks. Details are in the following report:

For the first time since the start of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington two years ago, these negotiations are being held outside the U.S. State Department headquarters, at an unspecified venue, amid total secrecy and away from the media. Only the heads of the Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations participated. Their movements were also kept secret.

The U.S. State Department said only that the negotiations were held about 1.5 km north of the State Department in the hotel district. A U.S. State Department spokeswoman said that the talks will achieve better results if there is emphasis on the need to put progress ahead of publicity. She added that this form of negotiations allows the parties to explore each other's views in a totally calm manner.

The only statement about last night's session came from Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Syria. He said the first meeting with the Syrians was held in a serious and positive atmosphere, adding that he got the impression that the two sides are hoping to achieve progress. However, he said, they also have a lot of work to do and it is not possible to expect a breakthrough soon.

Asked about the United States' role, the State Department spokeswoman said that the Americans held regular dialogue with the concerned parties on resuming these talks, and they will definitely be ready to hold new talks and discussions.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni on Talks With U.S. Delegation

JN2401183694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1604 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Report from the "With the Events" program]

[Text] An economic delegation led by the governor of the U.S. state of Massachusetts met with several Palestinian figures today to discuss with the possibility of extending economic assistance to the residents of the territories. Our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi has compiled the following report on the issue:

[Begin recording] [Mu'addi] The U.S. economic delegation headed by Massachusetts Governor William Weld met with Faysal al-Husayni, economist Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, and Dr. Hazim al-Shunnar in east Jerusalem at noon today. The talks addressed economic issues, the means of developing the territories economically, and

possible financial investment by U.S. firms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This delegation is made up of representatives from 22 U.S. firms in various areas.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Weld said that his visit is aimed at exploring investment opportunities in the region, particularly in the areas of tourism, financial investment, infrastructure development, and construction projects, such as hotels, communications facilities, and modern technologies. The delegation is comprised of representatives from 22 firms, he added. Weld noted that these firms are interested in developing the territories economically.

[Weld, in English] We are looking for opportunities in areas, such as tourism, such as financial investments, possibly construction, either of infrastructure or hotels, telecommunications, and information technology.

[Mu'addi] During the meeting, no agreements were signed between the two sides. Weld said he hoped that the U.S. firms will be able to make financial investments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Weld, in English] We didn't sign any agreement in there. But we are hopeful that we will be able to participate in investments in the area, in the territories, in the West Bank and Gaza.

[Mu'addi] During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on current issues, particularly the peace process.

[Al-Husayni] As the governor has just said, this session of talks addressed political issues. Several questions and inquiries have been made about economic issues. Consequently, the talks were couched in generalities. I believe that it was positive. The delegation demonstrated a good understanding of the situation in the territories.

[Mu'addi] Has the issue of investment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Massachusetts been raised?

[Al-Husayni] Such details have not been discussed. I believe that such issues can be discussed in subsequent talks with businessmen and firms.

[Mu'addi] Since you have recently returned from a visit to Saudi Arabia, could you tell us about the outcome of your visit?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the outcome is good and positive. Undoubtedly, it has helped improve and enhance the ties between Saudi Arabia and the PLO. We hope that the visit by brother President Yasir 'Arafat to Saudi Arabia will consummate the outcome reached during my visit.

[Mu'addi] What about Saudi aid to citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

[Al-Husayni] As a matter of fact, Saudi Arabia has always been concerned for aiding the Palestinians. I believe that now an opportunity has been created for greater and firmer support in light of the current developments we are experiencing, particularly with regard to Jerusalem.

[Mu'addi] Faysal al-Husayni said he hoped that an agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians will be reached, and that both sides will embark on the implementation of the joint Declaration of Principles in the Gaza-Jericho First accord.

[Al-Husayni] We hope that these talks will come to a successful conclusion so that we may embark on the implementation of the provisions pertaining to the interim phase, and so that we may have the opportunity to begin talks on the final status. [end recording]

PLO Reformists Seek To Amend Constitution

JN2001133394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 Jan 94 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian leaders demanding a more democratic decision-making process within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are preparing for national conferences to discuss amending a draft constitution for the Palestinian authority in an autonomous West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said Wednesday [19 January].

The conferences, due to be held in the occupied territories and Amman within two weeks, are expected to draw hundreds of Palestinian leaders representing different political factions, unions, chambers of industry and commerce in the West Bank and Gaza and experts in different fields, according to the sources.

The aim of the conferences, according to one of the organisers, Taysir 'Aruri, is to hold in-depth discussions on the draft constitution and come out with recommendations for amendements to be submitted to the PLO leadership.

A committee representing the reformists, headed by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, had discussed the draft constitution with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat early this month. The reformists insisted on "democratising" the decision-making and delegating more authority to other Palestinian leaders. During four meetings with the PLO chairman, the committee succeeded in convincing Mr. 'Arafat that the draft needed amendments.

Mr. 'Aruri said that the leadership also agreed to publicise the draft, to be implemented during the interim period, and open it for discussion before referring it to the 107-member Palestine Central Council (PCC).

"The aim is to engage in in-depth discussions of the draft constitution and recommend the appropriate amendments so that it does become a democratic constitution," Mr. 'Aruri told the Jordan Times in an interview.

He described the document as vague and insisted that contradictions existed between the jurisdictions of the chairman of the Executive committee, the president of the elected Palestinian council in the autonomous areas and the president of the executive authority there.

"There are too many unclear articles in the constitution which need clearing up," Mr. 'Aruri stressed.

Another example of contradiction in the draft constitution which concerns Palestinian and international human rights organizations is in articles 11 and 59. While article 59 stipulates that "each person has the right to life and the death penalty is prohibited," article 11 states that "a death penalty will not be carried out except after the president's endorsement, and all such sentences will be presented to him by the president of the council (government) with a recommendation." A footnote adds that "this article will be cancelled if the death penalty is cancelled."

The reformists—who include members of Mr. 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement, the Palestine People's Party (PPP) and Yasir 'Abd-Rabuh's Democratic Front (FIDA) in addition to independent personalities—are seeking to create a Palestinian constitution that would guarantee public freedoms and human rights.

"There must be no text that gives rights to any person or body extraordinary jurisdiction to impose exceptions on laws that would guarantee human rights," said Mr. 'Aruri, a member of the reformist follow-up committee and member of the PPP.

He said the reformists would attempt to come up with an amended version of the draft document to "guarantee a state of law, a modern constitution that would qualify us to enter the 21st century."

The reformist movement, which began with a petititon signed by 116 prominent Palestinian personalities, is also seeking to become a permanent body that would ensure continued democratisation with the PLO leadership. Mr. 'Aruri said that a permanent committee will be elected in a secret ballot soon, which would act as a body that would work towards "making the best of the (Sept. 13) Declaration of Principles (DoP)" between the PLO and Israel.

He added that much of the movement's activity was taking place in the occupied territories, headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, and continued to draw more people to its fold.

"We are currently involved in intensive contacts with many intellectuals and leaders from different factions inside the occupied territories and in the diaspora," Mr. 'Aruri said. "We are working towards turning what we already have into a permanent democratic movement, perhaps a democratic bloc, which we expect would become a major pillar in the political Palestinian map."

The reformists also expect to attract different leaders from the opposition factions, such as Hamas and the Popular and Democratic fronts, "who do not agree with the unrealistic political slogans of torpedoing the peace talks," Mr. 'Aruri said, adding that there were such personalities in the opposition who seek to "make the DoP work in the best interests of the Palestinian people."

A number of opposition members were among those who signed the petition demanding reform, and a substantial number do not share their factions' views on trying to destroy a peaceful settlement in the occupied territories.

Opposition Factions 'Leadership Committee' Meets

PM2401101494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jan 94 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi]

[Text] Damascus—The "leadership committee" in the Alliance of Palestinian Forces opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement began its first meeting yesterday to discuss the basic issues deferred when the alliance was announced prior to the Syrian-U.S. summit early in the month.

Palestinian sources have told AL-HAYAH that the leadership committee is discussing four fundamental issues. The sources pointed out that the "10 factions" have agreed on political tasks, "not a political program, and tasks are less binding on participants than a program." The sources added that "after strenuous efforts we formed the alliance and determined its tasks. We did not discuss the political program question, so that no faction will be under a total obligation and so that this program will not conflict with its own."

On the issues dealt with at the leadership committee meeting, the sources said that disputed questions include the tasks of the popular congresses, the share of every independent faction, the position on the phased program for 1974 [as published], and the factions' relationship with the National Islamic Command of the Intifadah.

The Palestinian sources said that "the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) stresses that the popular conferences to be held inside and outside [the occupied territories] should not be granted any organizational capacity and that their role should be confined to the political and propagandistic aspects "opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement."

The sources said that the representation ratio for every faction in the leadership committee "has been deferred until further notice, because it tends to provoke disagreement among the factions more than any other issue. The same applied to the position on the international resolutions."

The sources said that Hamas representatives reject these resolutions and do not comply with them or with the phased Palestinian program. And that they believe that

this program "is being used by (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat as a cover for all he is doing now, on the basis of the status quo policy."

Central Command Members Nominated

JN2101095294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Jan 94 pp 28, 27

[Excerpt] Damascus, QUDS PRESS—Well-informed Palestinian sources have confirmed that representatives from the 10 Palestinian factions opposing the self-rule agreement have met in Damascus and approved the names of their alliance's central command.

Sources told QUDS PRESS that each Palestinian faction nominated two of its leaders to represent it. The meeting approved these nominations. The Central command is expected to include:

Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] and Abu-Ahmad Fu'ad [not further identified] of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Nayif Hawatimah and Ramzi Rabah of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Ibrahim Ghawshah and Muhammad Nazzal of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; Ahmad Jibril and Talal Naji of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; Colonel Muhammad Musa, alias Abu-Musa, and Abu-Fakhir [not further identified] of Fatah-the Uprising; Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi and 'Isam 'Amir of the Islamic Jihad Movement; 'Isam al-Qadi and Sami Qandil of the Vanguards of the Popular Liberation War, al-Sa'iqah; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid and Haytham 'Abd-al-Qadir of the Popular Struggle Front; Abu-Nidal al-Ashqar and 'Ali 'Aziz of the Palestine Liberation Front; 'Arabi 'Awwad and 'Abdallah al-Nimr of the Revolutionary Community Party. [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah on Peace, Syrian Position

JN2201182594 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jan 94 p 17

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), by Riyad Mansur in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Mansur] The al-Asad-Clinton summit has clarified the situation and it may push the peace process forward. As a leader of the Palestinian opposition, how do you view the summit?

[Hawatimah] The Geneva summit has once again emphasized that U.S. Middle East policy still operates on a double standard. The U.S. President announced that he was for a comprehensive and just solution in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. But when it comes to the tangible agenda, we immediately notice the use of double standards. The U.S. Administration is ready to do that on the Golan front, Lebanon, and the occupied Jordanian territories. The same also applies to the occupied Palestinian territories.

This was clear in the Geneva summit talks, and was also tackled during the al-Asad-Clinton news conference. Clinton stressed his administrations' commitment to international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace regarding the Golan, southern Lebanon, and Jordanian territories, but he adopted the Oslo accord, which conflicts with the resolutions of international legitimacy. Replying to questions on settlement in the occupied territories, he said that these territories were disputed areas, in conflict with Resolutions 242 and 338 and with other Security Council resolutions.

This double standard was also clear when he replied to a question on implementing Security Council resolutions on Iraq, while Israel ignored Resolutions 242 and 338. He used two standards—the standard of the heavy club and comprehensive destruction for Iraq and the standard of bypassing everything that might embarrass Israel. At the same time, he left the door open for the settlement process, which was condemned by Security Council resolutions as illegitimate and illegal, in addition to turning the Palestinian territories into disputed areas.

The Syrian side adhered to a comprehensive withdrawal in return for peace and to the unity of all the tracks in the peace process, because all the occupied territories are Arab and are subject to international resolutions. This shows the big mistake 'Arafat made when he moved from secret talks in Washington to secret talks in Oslo, struck a partial agreement, and accepted all the Israeli peace conditions without regaining an inch of land. He approved the Oslo accord and recognized Israel's right to exist in accordance with Rabin's conditions, as well as normalization and security and economic cooperation, without getting anything in return. This conflicts with the principle of land for peace.

This reveals the extent of the crime committed by the Oslo team when it accepted all the Israeli conditions. Thus, the Palestinian territories became, as Clinton and Israel put it, a disputed area in violation of the principle of land for peace. Regarding the Gaza-Jericho agreement, pressure is being exercised in the Taba talks regarding secondary issues like the crossing points, the redeployment of the occupation forces, and the areas that will not be controlled by the Israeli forces, as well as the alternative Palestinian conditions. All these secondary issues will fall, and insistence on the principle of land for peace will survive. This necessarily requires the cancellation of the Oslo accord and the return to the peace negotiations based on international legitimacy and halting the settlement process. Israel is drawing up plans to make a complete geographic and demographic change in Arab East Jerusalem in two years, after which no Arab East Jerusalem land will be left for negotiations. In addition, the settlement process is going on in the West Bank and Gaza. Therefore, we have warned against falling into the trap of recognition, normalization, and security and economic cooperation, which are Israel's peace terms, without securing withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territories in accordance with Resolution

242 and other Security Council resolutions and without solving the issue of the refugees in accordance with UN Resolution 194.

[Mansur] Nothing has yet been implemented from the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Will there be an Israeli withdrawal, or will things remain the way they are?

[Hawatimah] Even 'Arafat himself could not drink the poison of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and is trying to escape from it, using superficial issues. We therefore call for that agreement to be annulled; for a return to the home of national unity, which is the strongest weapon in our hands against occupation and settlement; and for the negotiating equation to be rebuilt on the basis of the land-for-peace formula, which is the complete opposite of the Oslo formula.

After the Geneva summit, the Israeli Government is playing two very serious games, and we warn against them. First, the Israeli Government's statement on declaring Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights in return for a clear Syrian statement on readiness to accept normalization, the exchange of diplomatic and commercial ties, and the opening of borders. We remind everyone of the success Israel achieved by pushing 'Arafat to such a statement. Israel has managed to get all Israeli conditions without relinquishing an inch of land. We also remind everyone of the example of southern Lebanon. Since 1978, Israel been making statements about Lebanese political sovereignty over south Lebanon, saying that it does not covet a single inch. However, Israeli occupation has continued since then.

Declaring Syria's political sovereignty over the Golan Heights is similar to the Israeli declarations on Lebanese sovereignty over south Lebanon. Israel must recognize the principle of withdrawal and then set a timetable for that withdrawal.

The example of south Lebanon is flagrant. For 15 years, Israel has been declaring that Lebanon has political sovereignty over south Lebanon—that is probably why it set up the South Lebanon Army. Israel has also been stating that it does not covet a single inch of Lebanese territory or a drop of Lebanese water. However, it has been more than 15 years and we have still not seen Israel withdraw its occupation troops from a single inch of south Lebanon in compliance with Resolution 425.

Therefore, the Arab states should learn from the south Lebanon experience and from the deep abyss into which the advocates of the Oslo agreement have fallen. The Arab states should not fall in the trap of a declaration of political sovereignty over their territory in exchange for normalization and ties because this means accepting the Israeli conditions without withdrawal from a single inch of the occupied Arab territories. South Lebanon is an example. They should also not fall in the Oslo agreement abyss—to accept normalization in return for farfetched illusions.

We also warn the Arab states against attempts to deal with the Oslo team. The Tunis team is now trying to involve itself again in the Washington talks. Washington is now pressing to promote the Tunis team and the agreement on the separate Gaza-Jericho agreement by inviting that team to Washington despite the fact that it has no work there. This team already has an agenda for negotiations over proposals for choosing a self-rule administrative council. The real objective for that team's trip to Washington is to provide a cover for the Oslo agreement, which is now drowning, and to give it an umbrella by the cordon states.

Israel's second dangerous game is its threat to put the question of withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, south Lebanon, and Jordanian territory to a referendum. These are occupied territories that should be vacated as provided for by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Under a referendum, the Israeli public opinion would be in a position to override UN resolutions. The principle of referendum lends the Golan Heights, south Lebanon, and Jordanian territory the status of disputed rather than occupied land, the future of which would be a matter for the Israeli public opinion. The Israelis are thus extending the crime committed by the Oslo agreement to other Arab fronts. The Oslo agreement has, virtually, turned the occupied Palestinian land into disputed territory. This is because the agreement satisfies Israel's peace terms even before it ceded a single inch of land or acceded to the principle of a pullout from the occupied Palestinian territory as envisaged by UN resolutions.

[Mansur] The Israeli Government has hinted that unless 'Arafat accedes to Israel's terms, it will quicken the pace of the talks with Syria. What do you think?

[Hawatimah] This is not the first time that Israel has sought to use intra-Arab contradictions to its advantage and capitalize on parochial and isolationist attitudes in the Arab arena. The idea is to promote its occupation of Arab land. Israel has applied the same tactic since the sixth round of the bilateral Washington talks. In August, 1992, the Israelis created the impression that the road was clear for progress on other tracks by way of getting the Palestinian leadership in Tunis to run after secret talks in Oslo behind the backs of 'Arafat's negotiating team in Washington. Let's remember that the Washington negotiators were mostly unwilling to make the kind of astonishing concessions 'Arafat was pressing Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to make. Throughout the negotiating exercise in Madrid, Washington, and Oslo the Palestinian and other Arab peoples were kept in the dark. What took place in Oslo were secret negotiations held behind the backs of the Washington team and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who began to balk at the considerable amount of concessions the Tunis leadership wanted him to make.

The Arab parties must beware of these Israeli tactics. Otherwise, they will fall one after another and be made to go along with Israel's terms for a settlement, without

any of the UN resolutions stipulating an Israeli pullout from the occupied Palestinian territory being honored.

[Mansur] Some say that the U.S.-Syrian Geneva summit will lead to a peace agreement between Syria and Israel. As a leader of the Palestinian opposition, how much room will you have to operate on Syrian territory?

[Nawatimah] Whether Syria reaches an agreement or not, this is Syria's business. We hope that narrow regional interests and views will not take precedence over the common national and pan-Arab interests of our people to struggle to end the occupation, dismantle the settlements, exchange land for peace, and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. Such befuddling arguments have been going on for years. They will continue after the Geneva summit.

Those who try to depict the situation as if the Palestinian movement depends on administrative offices in the Arab capitals are under a great illusion. Whether these administrative facilities remain or go, this will not affect the genuine Palestinian democratic forces that call for a balanced and comprehensive peace on the basis of full withdrawal in return for full peace. Actually, some of these facilities are no longer provided. For us in the DFLP, this is a very minor issue. We exist within the organizational, popular, political, professional, and armed ranks of our people inside the occupied Palestinian territory and in the diaspora. Our offices exist inside the hearts of the people, their homes, and in several social, trade, and professional institutions in the occupied territories, which have been in existence for over 25 years. Our people's camps in the diaspora are the arenas in which our organizations operate. Also, the homes in the camps are our offices. It is useful to have administrative facilities in the Arab capitals. However, should some constraints be imposed on us, this will not affect us. This is a minor issue, because the democratic and nationalist forces of opposition exist in the occupied territories, the camps, and the diaspora, and not in administrative offices in this or that capital.

[Mansur] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is now leading an opposition movement for democratic reforms in the PLO. What can you tell him?

[Nawatimah] I have said, and I say again, that we welcome the person who discovered 'Arafat's dictatorship 26 months late. We tell him that if he really wants to democratize PLO institutions, make collective decisions, and reestablish Palestinian national unity, then he should join the democratic and nationalist opposition, spearheaded by the DFLP. Now, we have a unified central command for the 10 factions. We will operate by having reference to popular legitimacy at conferences at home and abroad and by electing leaders from the base to the top by democratic means.

I tell Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi that his major mistake was that after the eighth round of the peace talks, he did not declare a halt to the bilateral talks and boycott the multilateral talks. 'Abd-al-Shafi made another mistake when he traveled to Tunis. He came back sad and disappointed. He said that he was sure this time that the decision was in the hands of one person. Therefore, he can now return to the people and the masses, along with us.

DFLP's Khalid on Geneva Summit, Oslo Accord

JN2501125094 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 24 Jan 94 p 14

[Interview with Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib—place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Khatib] Why did you consider the summit between the Syrian and U.S. presidents in Geneva positive?

[Khalid] The summit itself is an important event. It reaffirms Syria's role in achieving a political settlement after the U.S. Administration tried to marginalize this role, especially after the signing of the Oslo agreement, and tried to show that a settlement could be conducted according to U.S. plans.

The events reaffirmed Syria's importance in conducting a political settlement. Moreover, the summit affirmed basic principles since the aim is to achieve a comprehensive settlement. The U.S. Administration reiterated, through Clinton, its commitment to a comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, and on Resolution 425, which stipulates Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, as well as the land-for-peace principle. These bases were violated when the Oslo agreement was signed and through the statements delivered at the signing ceremony. Therefore, we considered the reaffirmation of these bases an something important.

Despite the positive aspect of this summit, we, as a democratic front, were hoping that the Syrian side would address the Palestinian dimension of the conflict and of its solution. We were also hoping that a solution would be based on the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This was absent during the Syrian-U.S. summit.

[Al-Khatib] Some say that you adopted this stand in accordance with the political, geographical, and leadership stand in Syria. How do you respond to this, especially since the issue of the 10 opposition factions was on the agenda of the summit between the two presidents?

[Khalid] We are always asked these questions and we have responded to them in the past. Our policy, as a democratic front, is not governed by the factor of geographic location in this country or that. Our standard is to adhere to the higher national interest of the Palestinian people. The DFLP has never submitted to anyone.

We were often involved in political and non-political differences with some Arab countries, especially Syria, concerning Palestinian decisionmaking. This was in the 1970s and 1980s, particularly when there was a rift in the PLO ranks and we were centered in Damascus. At the time, we did not consider the geographic dimension in making our decisions, but we basically considered the interest of the Palestinian people and we frankly announced our stand toward the Syrian policy.

In any case, the summit is not a magic key for a political settlement. This summit reaffirmed bases which could be a key toward progress on the various negotiating tracks, including the Syrian-Israeli track. The Israeli statements after the summit confirm that negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track are not easy, not to mention that the Israeli lobby in the United States is exercising pressure to diminish the weight of U.S. affirmations expressed by President Clinton. Therefore, we say that fears about how this summit will affect Syria's relations with the Syrian-based opposition forces are highly exaggerated. We are not at all worried about this summit and its results.

[Al-Khatib] What are the requisites for achieving progress on the Syrian-Israeli track with relation to the Palestinian opposition forces? And why don't you practice your opposition from within the future Palestinian authority?

[Khalid] Our experience with Syria is long. We and our Syrian brothers learned lessons from this experience. In the past, Syria closed down the DFLP offices between 1983 and 1988 on the day leader Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was martyred. Despite this, the DFLP remained unshaken and did not retreat. The closing of its offices did not affect its weight among the ranks of our Palestinian people. On the contrary, the DFLP's effectiveness and respect increased among our Palestinian people.

We in the DFLP will continue to be an independent force that does not submit to anyone. Even if we assume that Syria is doing what you are assuming, we are convinced that this will not affect our stand, role, and weight. This also applies to our comrades in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Hamas movement. Whoever has an entrenched and deep rooted presence within the ranks of his people does not take such calculations into account.

As for the second part of your question, we will not take part in elections for the future self-rule agencies because the agencies that will emanate from these elections will have only one mission; that is, political responsibility toward the agreement reached in Oslo. The Oslo agreement is receiving opposition because it closed the doors to our people's right to return, to self-determination, and to establishing an independent state. Moreover, this agreement only seeks to turn the occupied territories into protected areas under Israeli control. However, we will definitely wage our political battles with those who signed this agreement. We will do so through wide participation in all the self-rule authorities that are of a popular nature, such as student, cultural, and professional unions as well as chambers of commerce, municipal and village councils, and clubs. We will go through with these elections in order to create a state of double authority between the administrative self-rule agencies and institutions and bodies that emerge from elections that have nothing to do with implementing the Oslo agreement. We will continue our struggle on the ground to prevent actual implementation of this agreement.

[Al-Khalid] What do you think about the PLO's recent call to restore dialogue and coordination with Syria after the Geneva summit?

[Khalid] The PLO leadership behaved unilaterally when it held secret negotiations in Oslo behind the backs of the Palestinian people, of their legitimate institutions and national factions, and of the Arab parties to the negotiations. In practice, the Oslo agreement was a form of separate political settlement. This leadership is responsible for the Arab reactions, for striking at Arab coordination, and for holding secret negotiations. As for now, we do not know on which common denominators coordination can be held. We call for canceling the Oslo agreement and returning to national constants. If this happens, then it is natural to call on the Arab countries, especially Syria, to return to coordination with the Palestinian side in order to reach a comprehensive solution on all fronts. [passage omitted]

Arab Unity Urged To Stop Israel's Thwarting Peace

PM2401103494 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Jan 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Israel and Post-Geneva Tricks"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin's government is trying to exploit Arab contradiction and the lack of coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. One time it says it is going to give precedence to the Syrian track over the other tracks, and other times it says it is going to focus on making the self-rule negotiations in Taba a success because it cannot divide its interests and make concessions on two tracks all at once.

While Rabin announced Israel's agreement to the "principle" of withdrawing from the Arab Syrian Golan Heights, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres warned the Palestinians that Israel may give precedence to its negotiations with Syria over the negotiations with the PLO. He said: "We have several options, and we can change direction by moving from the Palestinian track to the Syrian track, whereas the Palestinians have no other option."

These Israeli threats would not have been made had it not been for the present regrettable estrangement

between the Syrian and Palestinian sides since the announcement of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

Just as the Israeli Government is trying to exploit the Palestinian side's weakness, it is also using the same maneuvers with the Syrian side and trying to undermine the successful summit meeting held in Geneva last Sunday between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The Israeli response to the Syrian commitment to peace and to all its results—like exchanging ambassadors and trade relations and opening borders in return for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories—was suspicious and cautious. It is represented in the prime minister's statement about conducting a referendum before agreeing to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

Proposing the referendum idea is part of the old Israeli tactic designed to thwart any Arab peace plan. Rabin's government knows well that the Syrian president has put the ball in its court, as attested by the leader of the sole superpower in the world, the United States. It is trying to get out of this dilemma by looking for ways out that enable it to play for time and to obstruct the driving force resulting from the Geneva meeting, hence it has come out with the referendum idea. Thus all that is being said in Israeli circles about disagreements over this question is merely a kind of throwing dust in the eyes.

So all these Israeli maneuvers should not fool the Arabs, especially the Palestinians and the Syrians. Because it is untrue that they have no other options as Rabin and Peres say. On the contrary, the Arabs of the occupied territories and the men of the Islamic national resistance in southern Lebanon are daily carrying out the most important option through their daring operations against the occupation.

What is required is to restore organized coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process as soon as possible in order to close any gap through which the Israeli may infiltrate to sabotage the peace process and exploit Arab contradictions and differences.

Algeria

Draft Project To Be Presented to Conference

LD2401094094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 94

[Text] A great deal is expected of the draft project, whose fate will be decided the day after tomorrow [25 January] when its content will be put to the national concord conference. Here is Lutfi Charait to talk about this draft project:

[Begin Charait recording] The interim period is defined by a preliminary project which will be presented the day after tomorrow at the national concord conference. The project, after having been the subject of a widespread debate, was amended in the last few days and presented to the parties to the dialogue.

However, what the does the project contain? The draft project defines the political, economic, social, and security aims. It also provides the basis for allocating powers during the interim stage and preparing the conditions and necessary laws enabling a return to the electoral track.

The project includes 53 articles on allocating powers. The general measures confirm that the interim stage will extend to a maximum of three years. The constitution remains the legal basis for the draft project.

The general powers of the state during the interim period are embodied in the presidency of the state, the government, and the provisional national council.

The presidency of the state will be composed of a chairman and two deputies. The bureau of the conference will recommend leaders after consultation between the authority and the parties to the dialogue.

If the chairman dies or resigns or if the chairman is unable to carry out his duties, he will be replaced after consultation with the Higher Security Council and the chairman of the provisional council.

The provisional national council consists of 180 members who would be approved by the conference. The government is responsible to the provisional council.

The project in its new formula calls for the Amezeghian dimension to be considered as an essential basis of national heritage. In addition, religion cannot be used for partisan purposes. [end recording]

Participation in National Conference Viewed

Islamic HAMAS To Take Part

LD2401232294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Across the country, tomorrow's event is the national consensus conference on which the Algerian people are pinning high hopes to bring the country out of its current crisis. The national conference crowns numerous rounds of talks in the framework of a national dialogue. Various political and social forces took part in this dialogue, except representatives of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] which the National Dialogue Commission had promised to involve in the last round of talks. However, nothing has been revealed yet on the results of the contacts which the Dialogue Commission has held with the FIS.

On the eve of the start of the national consensus conference, numerous political parties continue to announce their participation in this conference. Thus the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], has announced its participation. The leader of the movement, Mr. Mahfouz Nahnah, said at a press conference that the participation of his party was aimed at achieving several objectives, one of which was to contribute to the containment of the current crisis. Mr. Mahfouz Nahnah explains these objectives to our colleague Ahmed Khida:

[Begin Nahnah recording] The executive bureau of HAMAS movement, which has been appointed by the movement's national consultative council, has decided to take part in the national conference in order to achieve the following objectives:

1. To contribute effectively to the containment of Algeria's stifling crisis.
2. To find suitable and practical formulas which would lead to the legitimacy with the drawing up of an agenda for the next elections.
3. To discuss formulas aimed at tackling the security crisis and find ways to ensure political detente through political means.
4. To expose the conspiracies, the manipulations and the methods aimed at excluding some people, aggravating the crisis and maintaining the status quo in the service of narrow interests, be they the interests of the authorities or those of the parties. Narrow interests are pursued at the expense of the blood of the innocent people, their property, and honor and at the expense of the country's higher interest. [end recording]

Union, Martyrs' Children To Attend

LD2401231494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] also agreed to participate in the national conference.

According to the UGTA national secretary in charge of information, the decision was made unanimously in view of the crisis in which the country is living.

On its part, the National Coordinating Committee of the Martyrs' Children announced its participation in the conference in order to contribute all its energies to saving the homeland.

The general coordinator of the National Coordinating Committee of the Martyrs' Children, Mr Moussa Touati confirmed the participation to Mesaoud Ramdani:

[Begin Touati recording] We met the national council and presented the questions forwarded by the National Dialogue Commission [NDC]. It approved them and we appointed a group from the think-tank to participate and express the views of the National Coordinating Committee to the NDC that we want to participate in this conference and at least attempt to reduce the tension currently present between the children of the Algerian nation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Among the political parties which have so far announced their non-participation in the national consensus conference are: the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Socialist Forces Front, the Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria.

Socialist Front Justifies Boycott

LD2501113494 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0700 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Four of Algeria's six main political parties are boycotting the national conference which opens today. Former President Ben Bella's Movement for Democracy in Algeria has also decided not to attend. [passage omitted]

All the boycotting parties have denounced the conference as a put up job with its outcome decided in advance by the authorities. Hocine Ait Ahmed, president [as heard] of the Socialist Forces Front, had this to say:

[Begin Ahmed recording] The conference organized by the authorities is a pseudo-conference. I believe that not only can we not conceive of a transition based on a fire that is raging and spreading but also that it would be too facile and stupid not to involve the Islamic movement in the government, thus forcing them into an underground existence and turning them into heroes with clean hands.

For the past 30 years in Algeria we have not been engaging in politics but rather in plotting and scheming. This national conference has been brought about solely to endorse what has already been decided behind the scenes, by what I call the family conclave. Organizations and persons determined beforehand are going to be imposed on us. What is being pursued is a policy of the fait accompli, hence the utmost contempt in which it is held by Algerian public opinion and by the political parties. [end recording]

Sixty Prisoners Released From Security Center

LD2401223494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] On the eve of the start of the national conference, and within the framework of the measures of appeasement and as a contribution towards ensuring the success of the national dialogue, another group consisting of 60 detainees from In Amguel security center was released today.

Egypt

Musa Returns From Israel With Rabin's Message

NC2401154494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this afternoon following a brief working visit to Israel.

Musa said he would submit a full report to President Husni Mubarak on his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He added that Rabin entrusted him with a message to President Mubarak in reply to one from the president.

Envoy To Israel on Musa's Visit, Golan Referendum

NC2501091294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni in Tel Aviv by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo; place and date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Good morning Mr. Ambassador.

[Basyuni] Good morning.

[Abu-al-Majd] The timing of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel is significant. It is part of extensive Egyptian activity to promote the Middle East peace process and coincides with the start of Arab-Israel talks in Washington. What were the results of this visit?

[Basyuni] Actually it was a successful visit, during which all the outstanding problems concerning the borders, crossing points, the area of Jericho, security arrangements and movement on the roads in Gaza were reviewed.

[Abu-al-Majd] Specifically, was there any response from Israel on meeting the Palestinians' demands as far as these issues are concerned?

[Basyuni] There is response from both sides, because both are doing their best to overcome the difficulties. Thus, there is a mutual desire to reach an agreement. It is not an easy problem. The path is not strewn with roses, but is full of problems. But with effort, perseverance, and mutual desire, Egypt is trying to reach solutions satisfactory to both sides. The problem has persisted for a very long time, and we are trying to find a solution to it so that we can start implementing the agreement and begin the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Then, the Palestinian authorities can begin to assume power on the ground.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister Musa naturally has brought back Israel's views to convey to President Mubarak and the Palestinian leadership...

[Basyuni, interrupting] Minister Musa has managed to bring the views closer over the crossing points themselves and the procedures to be followed there, while maintaining the dignity of the Palestinians passing through them. He discussed very minute and complicated details and tried to solve these problems; he discussed the best way to cross, and how to increase the area of Jericho as much as possible. All these issues were discussed in detail by Minister Musa.

[Abu-al-Majd] You said Minister Musa was successful in his discussions of these issues. What tangible effect this will have?

[Basyuni] Both sides accept the Egyptian views. As you know, we are not negotiating on behalf of the Palestinians or Israelis. We are trying to bridge the gap in views, offer new ideas, and use our past negotiating, security, and administration experience to give advice and try to overcome the problems in a bid to achieve the desired goal. As for the talks themselves, president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will resume them in Switzerland on Saturday night [29 January].

[Abu-al-Majd] Let us move to the Israeli-Syrian track and Rabin's proposal to hold a referendum on withdrawal from the Golan. How do the Israeli parliamentarians and ordinary people view this proposal?

[Basyuni] Actually I do not want to interfere in Israel's internal affairs or political map. I will give you my own personal views. Proposing a referendum is very shrewd. The objective is to gain the support of those who object to a withdrawal from the Golan, whether they are from the ruling coalition or the opposition. Concerning the ruling coalition, there are approximately seven Labor MK's [Knesset members] who object to full withdrawal from the Golan. There are also six MK's from the Shas religious movement who back the government but are not part of it.

Rabin said that should an agreement involving a major withdrawal from the Golan or abandonment of settlements be reached, he would opt for a referendum. This means that Prime Minister Rabin intends to take steps and make decisions that go far beyond the Labor Party's electoral program. Thus, his promising a referendum indicates that the decisions he is about to make will far exceed the electoral program. In such a case, the opposition cannot continue to object to a full withdrawal from the Golan until an agreement is reached, because Mr. Rabin promised he would opt for a referendum if an agreement involving a substantial withdrawal from the Golan is reached [sentence as heard].

I believe that if an agreement is reached, it will be a package deal based on a comprehensive solution. By this I mean that it will not be an agreement with Syria alone, but there will also be an agreement with Lebanon, Jordan, as well as on full self-rule for the Palestinians. Thus, Israeli citizens will be voting in a referendum on a comprehensive peace deal—full peace with Syria, with Jordan, with Lebanon, and full self-rule, as well as mutually acceptable security arrangements in exchange for their full withdrawal from the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories.

Cairo Renews Effort To Resolve Libya-West Crisis

PM2401164594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jan 94 p 2

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egypt has renewed its efforts to resolve the Lockerbie crisis between Libya and the West. It had stopped these efforts for about a month after the disappearance of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif's sudden visit to Tripoli and his meeting with Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi were part of these efforts.

According to informed sources in Cairo, Egypt conveyed to Libya France's willingness to start a dialogue with Libya on means of resolving the crisis. That is what French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe had conveyed to Cairo, during his recent visit, in response to the Egyptian proposals calling for a direct dialogue similar to that held with Britain at the beginning of the crisis.

The sources also revealed that, in a reply message from Chairman al-Qadhdhafi to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Libya officially confirmed that it had nothing to do with al-Kikhya's disappearance and that it was perfectly willing to cooperate with Egypt to find out what happened to him. [passage omitted]

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Arrives on Visit

NC2401150094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Cairo this afternoon.

He was received by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Badr Hammam and members of the Palestinian Embassy staff.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech in Banghazi

LD2401164794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1935 GMT 23 Jan 94

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Banghazi on 18 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. First I would like to greet you, brothers, and thank you for the glorious reception you gave me and with which we challenge the enemies. The welcome given by the people of Banghazi is one of the important messages which we said we would be sending to the enemies during these days. [applause] These days we see the entire world focusing its attention on what is going on in Libya. We receive delegations from Arab and foreign countries. They all tell us how their countries are surprised by the revolutionary phenomenon in Libya and the Libyan people's challenge and revolution; official as well as popular delegations come to Libya and draw our attention to the fact that the entire world is aware of what is going on in the land of Libya these days. Some of them say that this came as a surprise to them and to the world. As far as we are concerned it is not a surprise, as we know ourselves and know the times when we come out to challenge or to sacrifice ourselves. Some time ago there were U.S. and British bases and the Italians in Libya; Libya was totally subjugated in 1970—in 1969—to foreign control. Libya had signed a 99-year treaty which allowed American forces to be stationed on Libyan soil. The treaty was signed with [King] Idris al-Sanusi; its effect was that until it ran dry the oil would remain in the hands of the American companies and one British company. They forgot that they were occupying a land that belonged to martyrs, heroes, and honorable people whose families fought the Italians for long years with limited resources. The Americans, the British, and the West have no farsightedness; they do not ready history. They are always deceived and are always taken by suprise by the people. [passage omitted] Even when they established their bases in Libya and signed a 99-year treaty—look how they disregarded and belittled us. How could they sign a 99-year treaty which would allow them to remain in Libya? How come? Has Libya no people? Has Libya no generations of people? The 99-year period mean three generations; that is to say, they passed judgement on all these three generations as being submissive and capitulationist, and accepting the American presence for at least 99 years, to be renewed for a further 99 years. [passage omitted]

When the Westerners heard a deputy, a minister, an ambassador, a prince, a counsellor, a king, or a head of government speaking they imagined that all the Libyan people were like him—submissive and ready to sell out their homeland in order to fill their bellies, welcoming the Americans, the British, and the Italians, keeping Libya under the control of American bases for 99 years while the oil remained forever in the hand of the American companies. This shows that the Westerners are simpletons, unable to look ahead and incapable of genuine analysis. Otherwise the Westerners would have said that those people who are around us—ministers, counsellors, and so on—do not represent the Libyan people. [passage omitted]

These days we Libyans have felt that there was a greedy attempt being made against us by the Western states. This in fact has made us angry; we have taken to the streets and squares in challenge. We felt that 25 years after the revolution the West has forgotten what the revolution did and imagined that a country where a revolution has taken place is like any other country that has surrendered. The Arabs made the Western states and the Israelis entertain ambitions against them because they accepted a humiliating and shameful surrender—a surrender which is shameful to the Arabs and their history. They unlimitedly, unreservedly, freely, and unjustifiably compromised the future and dignity of the Arab nation. The Arabs competed against each other to offer unconditional recognition to the Israelis. There was no need for that. We have hope that we will emerge from the confrontation victorious, and that we will deny the enemies their opportunity. Despite this revolution of anger by the Libyan people and the language of challenge, Libyan diplomacy and politics at all levels—legal, political, economic, and intelligence, and so on—are working day and night to win the battle at the levels of politics, diplomacy, economy, intelligence, and so on.

But we should not make excessive demands for a friendly solution and understanding because then winning will become worthless. If a triumph is achieved through being nice or being submissive, it will be of no value. I believe therefore that the Libyan people have actually felt that matters have reached such an point that we cannot continue in a friendly way as this will be useless and of no value, even if we win the case peacefully. We are taking a serious stance and showing that we do not always ask for peace, friendship, amity, and so on. No, this is not necessary. If you—the West—do not want friendship, then to hell with you; we will no longer regard ourselves as having good relations with you. Let the good relations go to hell. I have, brothers, said this in public speeches. It was not Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who said it; it was God himself who said: Neither the Jews nor the Christians will be satisfied with you until you follow them. When they dictate to you and you carry out their orders they will be satisfied with you and accept you. They issue the orders and you will carry them out. This is what God himself said. See how conditional it is as God said: until you follow them. Otherwise, neither the Jews nor the Christians will be satisfied with you. The Jews and Christians today are the the Israelis and the Western states. [passage omitted]

The West is waging a civil war in the streets of Egypt. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman who is waging a civil war in the streets of Egypt is with U.S. intelligence who are supplying him with money and...[pauses] Algeria—the Algerian black hand is waging a war in Algeria—this is common knowledge. It is the same black hand that tried to kill [as heard] Ahmed Ben Bella at the Ittihad hotel in Tripoli before...[pauses] during the days of the Algerian revolution. It is the same black hand that is now taking revenge on Algeria; that is, France is fighting Algeria now.

I want to tell you that when you hear leaders or anyone, even me, one day talking about friendship or such a thing, these friendly countries or... [pauses] No, we, as a

people, should understand that this language could be a diplomatic one but in reality we never ever had any ambition that the Americans, the French, or the English could become friends of ours. They will remain our enemies until the Day of Judgement [applause] and if they find a weakness in us or an opening they will penetrate it.

You have seen the proof of that. Did they not go to Chad, contact Libyan POW's there, give them money, keep brainwashing them for several months, and subject them to all kinds of pressures until they persuaded them and took them away? Some of them came to their senses and returned from Nigeria, some returned from Zaire, and some came to their senses, escaped, and returned from the United States. There are some who still remain out of Libya. We do not know who is unable to return, who is under pressure, who is locked up, or who is being brainwashed. Look, who are the evildoers now? Has anyone gone to U.S. soldiers anywhere to bring them over to Libya? They are the ones who went to our sons in Chad and brought tension between us and Chad. Let us not get taken in or allow anyone to come and deceive us.

They say al-Qadhdhafi has got you into trouble with the United States and involved you in problems; why is he hostile to the United States? Are we hostile to the United States? Did we go to Vietnam to ask them to hand over to us the U.S. POW's whom they were holding so that we could take them over to Libya and train them against the United States? Or was it the Americans who went to Chad and asked the Chadians to give them the Libyans whom they were holding so that they could be mobilized against their country? It did not work, we found out. [crowd chants]

With America, the Western states, and the Israelis, it is not a question of seeking them in peace, in war, or in confrontation. No, they have very, very clear ambitions; you either accept their ambitions or you become their enemy, even if you turn the other cheek or keep quiet. See what they have been doing with us, and we have been keeping quiet. They have been pursuing us and seeking us out. They want to control the Arab homeland, destroy the revolution, destroy the unity of the Arab nation, and destroy Yemen's unity. They have to take the oil and control the regions where there is oil. They have to control the strategic regions. [two-minute break in reception]

When we asked about the story, they said that after the crash of their airliner over Britain, the Americans announced that anyone who would provide them with information on the crash would be given $1 million; that is, 300,000 Libyan dinars. Ju'akah [witness in Lockerbie case] told them: Give me the $1 million and I will provide the information. They told him to go to them. He is a Libyan married to a Maltese woman and was living in Malta. He went to America. U.S. intelligence put him in jail and told him that he had to stay in jail until he testified before a court.

He asked for the $1 million. They replied: What $1 million? You are an important witness and have to stay in jail. He asked them: What will happen to me after the trial? They said: We cannot release you after the trial, because after the trial you might say that you were lying to us, that we enticed you, and that you had your eyes on the $1 million. You might change your testimony and create problems.

There was an interview between the Americans, Americans from U.S. intelligence, and some journalists. They were asked about Ju'akah's fate. They said that his fate was sealed. He will spend the rest of his life in a U.S. intelligence prison.

When the Libyans heard of this name, they started asking about Ju'akah's origins until they found out that he was from Suq al-Jum'ah in Tripoli. [passage omitted] Suq al-Jum'ah people met and found out in fact that there was a family named Ju'akah. I had met with these people in a large tent similar to this one. So the Ju'akah family was summoned and told by Suq al-Jum'ah people: your son told lies to the Americans. He told them that Libyans had caused the Lockerbie airplane crash. We are going to burn you, your house, and your plantation. The poor family said: We will kill our son when we find him. We disown him. The family went and brought his medical record, and said that he had been in a psychiatric hospital. [passage omitted] Then the Arabs of Zawiyat al-Mahjub started to investigate and they had meetings to see if the Ju'akah family were really from Zawiyat al-Mahjub; if this were so, they would have found the family members, homes, and farms. They had decided to burn them after pouring oil over them. They told me that there was an error and that Ju'akah was not from Zawiyat al-Mahjub. They said that he was from an area close to Ghmatah. When they hear the news in Ghmatah, they would start to look for them and if they found a family called Ju'akah to whom he belonged they would want to destroy and burn them and their home. This is tragic. It is tragic that serious things of this kind should take place. However, I, personally, cannot prevent that from happening. No one can prevent it because the masses are like a sea; if thousands of people storm a house of treason, they can storm, crush, burn and knock it down. [passage omitted] Despite the fact that these are dangerous things which might take place without anyone—even the police—being able to prevent them, when thousands of people march on a house, or a plantation, or a tribe, or families, they can tear them up into pieces without anyone being able to offer them protection. The reason is that the Libyan people cannot in fact bear this kind of thing. How, when we are in a state of confrontation against the enemy, could someone go to sell us? Some stray dog, a spy, an apostate, someone who is ready to sell his country for his interests, goes and sells us like a traitor. There are barricades between us and the Americans. We are on one side and they are on the other. How could you jump over barricades and go to the other side?

These are dangerous and very frightful things. Anyone who is considering treason, now thinks about it a thousand times, and even if he manages to flee, and offers himself in sacrifice, he knows that his family, his home, his plantation, and all his property will be destroyed, burned, and walked over by the masses. The angry masses might march over them and destroy them. [applause]

The fact is that treason is no longer an easy thing. This is the positive thing. The Libyan people set up this practice and made a decision, not through the legal system—judges, prosecution, and courts. The Libyan people made a decision and set a rule which consists in attacking treason, putting it under siege and attacking it with a view to destroying it. The target would not be the person only, but his family too. [passage omitted]

In fact these are all dangerous threats which originate from the masses against whoever thinks of treason. Now, as long as this is a basis rule that has been established by the Libyan people and a decision that has been taken by the Libyan people, everyone should take these threats seriously. Everyone should please pay attention to his family, his kids, his relatives, and himself. You would not only be taken to the public prosecution and to court and get capital punishment, a life sentence or other punishment for being a traitor or a spy; you should also think of the family, the traitor's family, and home which have become endangered. [passage omitted]

Yes, these threats have become dangerous. Please, everyone who is present here should inform those who are not. No one could prevent the masses' revenge. By God, we can no longer guarantee the safety of the family, relatives, or possessions of traitors. People are right; that is, if a traitor's family comes from a given tribe, then the tribe would disavow them so that treason could be contained in that family. The tribe would destroy them, and tell them: You have dishonored us. [passage omitted]

There are other things which are no less serious than going over to the United States and selling oneself. It is all treason; you will see. Considering that so far the battle has not been a battle of guns, missiles, aircraft or similar things. The battle has begun, but it is a cold war. I wish it were a heated battle. Perhaps with rifles and machine guns, the Americans would not be at peace and would feel unsettled, and finally withdraw as they are doing now from Somalia.

The threat is that in a cold war the enemy might win without your noticing it. The enemy might occupy your home, your street, your mind, your stomach, your farm, and your shop without your being aware of it. How? Trading in dollars constitutes treason, pushing down the value of the Libyan dinar constitutes treason, smuggling out Libyan products constitutes treason, smuggling out medicines constitutes treason, smuggling out food constitutes treason, smuggling out fuel and petrol abroad constitutes treason. By God, brothers even going for treatment abroad, tourism and spending money in Switzerland... [pauses] you have heard from your radio what Switzerland has said. It has said that it will implement the sanctions against Libya. You should keep quiet at least, Switzerland, because Libyans always say: Switzerland, Switzerland, Switzerland. Those who need medical treatment want to go to Switzerland and millions have been spent in Switzerland. Listen to what Switzerland has been saying. It has not said that it was benefiting from Libyans—from whom it has taken millions—but it has said that it wants to implement sanctions against them and freeze Libyan assets if found. Did you or did you not hear about this? [passage omitted]

Those who have been playing havoc in the country through nepotism and corruption are traitors. But who is doing this? Is there a solution for this? Any solution will come from you. Those things are being carried out by you; and it is up to you as free men. [crowd chants] If I were the one doing these things I would stop straight away here in front of you, but it is not me. They are being carried out by members of the public, by free citizens. It is, thus, up to you to stop anyone who is caught smuggling anything, like that one who was caught at the harbor trying to smuggle medicine to Syria. [passage omitted]

Treachery is not merely those spies, who. we caught the day before yesterday, or those stray dogs. Your children, who have joined the Muslim Brotherhood, are also traitors; those of them, who have joined heretics, are also traitors.

Those calamities which are called Atonement and Flight, the Call, al-Jihad, the Party of Liberation, and the Muslim Brotherhood—did they exist during the era of the prophet or during the era of 'Umar? Did they exist when were fighting the Italians? If they did exist we did not know about them. Even of they had existed no one would have followed them because hundreds of denominations have always existed. [crowd chants] [passage omitted, including one-minute break in reception]

The spies whom you have caught were found to be responsible for many rumors which we have been hearing on the street. This was done on the orders of U.S. intelligence; rumors which were hatched by U.S. intelligence, taught to them [the spies] who were then asked to spread them in the Libyan streets to undermine the Libyan people's morale, make the Libyan people doubt their revolution, their ability to revolt, and their capabilities, so that the Libyan people would weaken before America, Britain, and France, hand over their sons, accept to be ranked among the agents and those who have surrendered, and again surrender their oil and their land to the enemies.

The rumors that we used to hear; they [the spies] have now admitted that they were spreading these rumors at the instigation of U.S. intelligence. They say: They told

us to spread a rumor against so and so; distort this and distort that; do this and do that. This is known to us; it is not strange to us.

When rumors emerge, we know that there is a black hand and foreign intelligence is behind them. However, we are not so stupid as to repeat them. What, repeat them and destroy our homes and dig our own graves? This is what would hurt and mean that we are stupid people. America wants us to repeat rumors. America has hatched and spread them in our streets.

The hashish you hear about—this is on the orders of the Western states. Israel runs narcotics farms. Hashish is planted in Palestine and directed against the Arab countries. The Israelis have said: If there is no war of missiles, let us have a hashish war. We cannot accept the existence of an Arab nation; Israel has to extend from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf, not from the Euphrates to the Nile. The Jewish state must extend to North Africa and include the whole of Syria.

Brothers, the drugs, the hashish, come in sealed boxes and organized containers under the seals of a state. These are missiles and bombs which they drop on Arab shores from Morocco to Egypt to Syria. The farms are in Palestine. It is strange. This should have been said a long time ago; at least people should have known about it. They talk about hashish as if it has come down from the sky. Do they not know that it is a plant that grows in Palestine? Who grows it? The Jews grow it. Why? So that they can destroy the Arab nation. It is clear.

America is fighting in Latin America; the United States invaded Panama because of hashish. So why don't you invade Palestine and the Israelis, and destroy the hashish farms? No, because the West is in agreement with the Israelis; the hashish farms in Palestine are weapons against the Arabs. No one can touch those farms. [The West tells the] Israelis, grow hashish and distribute it in Arab countries and we will pay you. America is paying a billion [currency not specified] just for them to plant hashish and send it to Libya and Morocco. [passage omitted]

If you take a box of hashish from Libya and leave it on U.S. shores, and if they know it is from Libya, they will hit you with missiles. We are submissive; bring in hashish, distribute hashish, trade in hashish, taste hashish and get used to hashish. [passage omitted]

The Americans, the English, and the French have been hit hard. They changed their tune when they saw a sea of Libyan masses with al-Qadhdhafi. They said: We used to think that al-Qadhdhafi did not have people supporting him and his people were ready to surrender. [crowd chants slogans] This is what has deterred and frightened them and made them change their tune recently. By God, their tune has changed, brothers. The Arab rulers began to contact me and said: Please calm the situation down a little bit. They were frightened. Each one got in touch with me. Some contacted President Husni Mubarak and said to him: Your relations with al- Qadhdhafi are good. Please tell him to calm the situation down a little. What is this revolution he started in Libya? This revolution is motivating the masses against us. Please, Mu'ammar, calm down a little. [applause, chanting] Yesterday a delegation from Egypt came to see me. The delegation said that the reception given to me in Banghazi was intimidating. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs; applause] [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Several Arrested for Fraud Before Local Polls

AB2001162394 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Nouakchott, 20 Jan (AFP)—Mauritanian security forces have arrested an undisclosed number of people for fraud a week ahead of local government elections in the West African country, the Interior Ministry said Thursday [20 January]. Those arrested came from both the ruling Democratic and Social Republican Party (PRDS) and opposition groupings and will be charged for making use of forged identity papers to enable people to vote twice, the ministry said. Such fraud undermined the "rigorous procedures" employed in drawing up the voters' rolls and indelible ink will be used during the January 28 elections to prevent double-voting, a ministry statement added.

Two parties are taking on the PRDS, which is presenting 189 lists of candidates at the polls. The main opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UFD) is presenting 60 lists and the Union for Democracy and Progress (UDP), 19. Independent candidates are standing on 57 lists.

During the campaign, which began this week, a magistrate's office was burned down at Akjout in the west of the country, fighting broke out between party activists at Aleg in the south, and a district administrator resigned at Kiffa, 600 kilometres (370 miles) south of Nouakchott, to protest against what he called attempts at fraud by the PRDS.

Observers here expect a close race in the capital and have not ruled out a run-off round of voting. In the provinces, strong support for Hamdy Ould Moukhnass's UDP has been reported from the large eastern towns of Aioun and Tintane, while the UFD has widespread backing among the non-Moorish black peoples of the south.

Head of Human Rights Association Arrested

AB2101211694 Paris AFP in English 2047 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Text] Nouakchott, Jan 20 (AFP)—The head of the Mauritanian Association for Human Rights, which is unrecognised by the authorities, has been arrested for alleged incitement to agitation, an informed source said Friday [21 January].

Sheikh Sadibou Camara, who is also a member of the executive of the opposition Union for Democracy and Progress (UDP), is accused of saying that descendants of former slaves whose parents had lost trace of them had been sold.

Under Mauritanian law any reference to a return to the country's traditional practice of slavery is considered prejudicial to national unity and banned.

The UDP for its part said Camara's arrest Thursday followed contacts he had with the human rights organisation Agir Ensemble (Act Together) in condemning the conduct of the campaign for municipal elections on January 28.

International Community Seeks Release

AB2401190594 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1230 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Passages in italics recorded]

[Text] With four days to go for the municipal elections in Mauritania the opposition is already crying wolf. It has denounced the attempts of massive fraud made by the Nouakchott government.

In connection with these elections, Sheikh Sadibou Camara, influential leader of the opposition, was arrested on 20 January. Sadibou Camara is also the chairman of the Mauritanian Human Rights Association. For Camara's lawyer, Fatimata Mbaye, this arrest is connected with his fight against slavery in Mauritania:

[Mbaye] *Professor Camara is a well-known figure whose activities are no secret to anyone. He is not only a human rights activist, but also takes part in the UN efforts to fight slavery. He is also a member of the board of administration of a nongovernmental antislavery organization. It is therefore quite normal for Prof. Camara to stand against slavery. What is really interesting is that Prof. Camara's arrest occurred around the time that the Acting Together and the International Human Rights Federation joint delegation arrived in Mauritania—a delegation which received authorization at the Mauritanian Embassy in Paris—only four days after getting this authorization.*

Like every Mauritanian who is at all aware of the Mauritanian political atmosphere, we quite understand the reaction of the Mauritanian authorities inasmuch as Prof. Camara is an influential personality who plays quite an important role in his party, the Union for Democracy and Progress, by attracting a large number of activists. This is just another violent act which the authorities have perpetrated on our new democracy.

Prof. Camara's arrest has, since this morning, raised a general outcry within the international community. Here is the reaction of the chairman of the International Human Rights Federation, Daniel Jacob:

[Jacob] *I have sent a telegram to the Mauritanian head of state asking him to release the professor immediately because he was arrested as a result of his human rights activities in Mauritania. We are contacting immediately the UN working group on this disappearance—on this arbitrary detention—and on this situation which we consider as particularly serious because, according to the information in our possession, the main accusation against Prof. Camara is first, he continued to head an association that did not have the required authorization and second, and above all, he gave information to the investigation mission of the international federation which was in Mauritania last week.*

[Unidentified reporter] *Given the fact that reports reveal that he was being detained in extremely difficult conditions, do you think you have other means of pressure that can make the Mauritanian Government soften its stand and release him immediately?*

[Jacob] *I personally wrote to Colonel Taya asking him to understand that the international organizations that finally adopted a relatively lenient attitude owing to some progress in the promotion of freedom of opinion, are perhaps going to revise their stand and then complain to the French Government.*

Here is another reaction from Gaita Motou, an official of the research bureau of Amnesty International in Paris:

[Motou] *We launched what we call an urgent program of action in (?collaboration) with all our sections and groups of persons working on our urgent program of action asking them to contact the Mauritanian Government and demand the release of Prof. Camara since 21 January.*

[Reporter] *The accusation often leveled against Amnesty International is that it remains in its Paris or London bureau to criticize the public authority in Africa. In this particular case, have you sent a mission to Mauritania to see the conditions in which Prof. Camara is being detained?*

[Motou] *This accusation leveled against us is quite unfounded. In the case of Mauritania, we tried to go there to express our concern, but we have never received any answer. We think that intensifying the pressure that we have been bringing to bear on the Mauritanian Government since 21 January might make it change its mind.*

Morocco

Iranian Ambassador Calls For Expansion of Ties

LD2201133594 Tehran IRNA in English 1214 GMT 22 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Morocco Ja'far Shamsiyan in a meeting with Moroccan National Education Minister Mohamed Gnidirine called for expansion of ties in all fields.

During the meeting held in Rabat on Friday, the two sides also called for promotion of scientific, educational

and research cooperation as well as the resumption of Persian language courses in Morocco.

They also underlined exchange of university professors and students.

Sudan

Islamic Conference Secretary General Begins Visit

EA2401163594 Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (SUNA)—The secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], Dr. Hamid Algabid, has arrived here this morning. He was received by Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih.

While here, Dr. Algabid will attend the inauguration ceremony of the Islamic Institute for Translation in Khartoum and will attend also the opening session of the Seventh Conference of Arabicization on Tuesday morning. The secretary-general of ICO will meet during his stay here (?some) Sudanese officials.

Meets With Foreign Minister

EA2501101094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has confirmed the organization's backing and support for the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development committee to achieve peace in southern Sudan. He said ICO is in constant contact with the committee. Dr. al-Ghabid added that the organization is working to strengthen Sudan's integrity and the safety of its territory. He referred to the ICO resolutions in its last session supporting this trend.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih discussed with Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid issues facing the Muslim nation and relations between Sudan and ICO. Dr. Abu-Salih stressed the role of the organization in achieving Islamic solidarity.

Agreement Establishes Joint Bank With China

EA2401164794 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (SUNA)—An agreement has been signed here Sunday [23 January] between Sudan and China to establish the Sudanese-Chinese Bank.

General manager of Al-Nilayn Bank (?group) for industrial development al-Said Mahjub signed on the behalf of Sudan in the memorandum while the Chinese delegation's head signed on behalf of China.

The 100 million dollars capital of the bank will be equally shared among the banks and companies in Sudan and China. The bank will work in the fields of petrol exploitation, mining industry, agriculture and commerce.

Following the signature, Mahjub said that the bank was considered as topping all the signed agreement in all the field. [sentence as heard] The Chinese delegation head confirmed that the bank would support the mutual project between the two countries.

The Chinese delegation, which comprised industrial [word indistinct] commercial institutes, in addition to businessmen, had arrived here last week to study means of establishing Sino-Sudanese projects.

Tunisia

Higher Joint Committee Established With Qatar

LD1801215194 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] The official visit of the Qatar foreign minister to our country was concluded with the signing of an agreement setting up a higher Tunisian-Qatari joint committee.

The joint statement renewed the resolve of the two countries to make more efforts to develop bilateral cooperation in all fields. Details are as follows:

At the Foreign Ministry headquarters today an agreement was signed concerning the setting up of a higher Tunisian-Qatari joint committee for developing the relations of cooperation, headed by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahyah and his Qatari colleague Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani

At the end of this ceremony, Mr. Habib Ben Yahyah delivered a speech in which he affirmed the strength of the fraternal ties that link Tunisia with Qatar. He praised the results of the talks, which are bound to strengthen the bilateral relations and ensure more coordination for the good of the Arab and Islamic nation.

For his part, the Qatari minister, evaluating the results of his visit, stressed that what has been achieved is very positive. All questions of mutual interest were raised in an atmosphere of clarity and frankness. He expressed the belief that the two countries can reach a joint understanding concerning future cooperation.

Bahrain

Defense Minister on UK, U.S. Military Ties

PM2401122594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jan 94 p 6

[Interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in London "yesterday"]

[Text] ['Alam-al-Din] What are the most important aims of your current visit to Britain? What issues have you discussed with officials in London, and what are the aims of your visit to the United States, which begins tomorrow?

[Al Khalifah] Actually my current visit to London is a regular working visit organized between us and the British Defense Ministry. The meetings held yesterday, Monday, with Jonathan Aitken, minister of state for defense procurements, and then Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind are regular meetings which occur once a year in Bahrain or in London.

And as I said, these are regular visits and meetings which do not lead to "military deals," as you journalists like to portray them. Even if they do lead to deals and agreements, we military officials are known for saying little.

['Alam-al-Din] So what can be said about the results of the meetings held yesterday?

[Al Khalifah] A memorandum of understanding was signed yesterday between us and them to organize joint exercises and cooperation in the exchange of military personnel between the two states.

['Alam-al-Din] Does your visit to the United States tomorrow (today) fall within the same framework as your visit to Britain?

[Al Khalifah] The visit to the United States is similar to the visit to Britain. It is aimed at organizing joint cooperation between the United States and Bahrain.

['Alam-al-Din] Can Bahrain's cooperation with the United States and Britain be put in a single framework?

[Al Khalifah] Our cooperation with Britain is older. However, our dealings with the two states are conducted on the same level. They are two major states and each has its influential role in the security of the region, the Gulf region.

['Alam-al-Din] How would you assess the results of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit held in Riyadh last month with regard to Gulf security?

[Al Khalifah] The summit and its results were a success at the military level, as the leaders endorsed all the defense ministers' recommendations without any omissions, amendments, or reservations—proof of complete success.

['Alam-al-Din] What stage has been reached in the plan to build and develop the "Peninsula Shield Force"?

[Al Khalifah] There is a reorganization process under way to reinforce the Peninsula Shield Force on the basis of the recommendations I mentioned.

['Alam-al-Din] Some people are calling for a limit to the Gulf states' spending on armament, saying that the weapons they are buying exceed their capability. What is your opinion?

[Al Khalifah] I can talk about the State of Bahrain in detail and about my brothers in the GCC states generally and say that we are newly independent states, and it is obviously a national duty to build up our armed forces. Every citizen should participate in performing this duty in order to defend the homeland. And any efforts made in that direction—in an organized manner—are bound to to lead to the desired results.

I do not believe that the Gulf states are arming themselves beyond their security needs. On the contrary, they need every item of armament purchased in order to confront the dangers surrounding them, which far exceed their armament programs.

['Alam-al-Din] How do you view the situation of the Bahrain Armed Forces? And are you satisfied with their position?

[Al Khalifah] Defense in Bahrain—under the supervision of their highnesses the head of state, the heir apparent, and the prime minister—has the lion's share in the modest general budget.

And praise be to God, we have—with our own capabilities and the help of our brothers in the GCC states—achieved the basic structure with regard to the establishment of Bahrain's defense force in terms of the three corps: ground forces, air force, and navy. That is, in a manner sufficient to defend Bahrain against any threat.

There is a need for further capabilities whose achievement I am discussing with the British and U.S. Governments.

['Alam-al-Din] When will the Gulf possess a joint military force capable of repulsing any foreign aggression against any GCC state, even at the initial stage of this aggression?

[Al Khalifah] Some people always say that the work of the GCC defense ministers is characterized by slowness. To this we can respond that, if we study NATO's history, we will find that it took its defense ministers decades to assemble and unite its forces after World War II. And there are European states which still have not joined NATO. And there are states which have joined it in a semiofficial way, like France, which is not a proper member, even though it has to fulfill certain NATO commitments for geopolitical reasons.

Thus I believe that the steps we have taken with regard to building systems, laws, and military arrangements in the Gulf are effective and fundamental. So it can be said that all this will lead to the uniting of the military forces. And the Peninsula Shield Force is the basic nucleus for joint and unified military cooperation.

['Alam-al-Din] Some people in the West expect World War III to break out in the Gulf region within the next five years. Do you believe this expectation to be correct, and, if so, how can it be tackled?

[Al Khalifah] That saying proves that preparedness for war is the best means to prevent the breakout of war. This is because any enemy who sees that the person he is planning to attack is preparing to defend himself is bound to reexamine his calculations, and vice versa.

We hope that the page of wars will be turned, that peace will prevail, and that the peoples will enjoy stability. What we have suffered from the two recent wars is enough.

['Alam-al-Din] Why has talk about the establishment of an Arab military industry stopped?

[Al Khalifah] Maybe money and material capabilities are the first reason for the faltering of military industrialization in some Arab states, such as Egypt.

As for the GCC states, there is still interest in military industrialization, and the issue is on the negotiating table. There is a nucleus for military industrialization in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It will develop with the passage of time.

['Alam-al-Din] How is peace expected to affect regional security in the Middle East?

[Al Khalifah] As is known, Israel is a state which is not comfortable under peace, by virtue of its political structure and as a group of individuals gathered in our region from various parts of the world. This is why they want to continue the occupation atmosphere in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan and at the same time to seize the economic initiative from us and to invade our countries economically just as they have invaded them militarily and in human terms.

We hope that Israel has now decided to be serious in the framework of the peace process. We also hope that they have discovered that they have no life except within the framework of a comprehensive and just peace. We in the Gulf states leave the Palestinians to make their own decisions, and we support everything they have decided for themselves. We also support the peace process and believe as military officials that there can be no peace as long as the enemy continues to occupy our Arab territories.

['Alam-al-Din] What about other threats?

[Al Khalifah] As long as the Gulf region contains 65 percent of world oil reserves, the threats to it will continue to exist. What sort of peace or security can be established when Israel has more than 200 nuclear bombs in its military arsenal.

When you ponder this reality your confidence in peace is bound to waver. However, we hope that the endeavors being made will secure just solutions, strip Israel of its nuclear weapons, and eliminate this type of vile and destructive weapon from our region as a whole.

Amir, Prime Minister Receive Indian Minister

JN2401145794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1155 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Manama, 24 Jan (WAKH)—Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, today received Raghunandan Lal Bhatia, Indian minister of state for external affairs. Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah attended.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed a number of developments on the regional and international levels, as well as bilateral ties and means of strengthening them in all fields for the benefit of the two peoples and countries. [passage omitted]

The Indian minister of state arrived in Manama earlier today from Kuwait on a two-day visit to Bahrain as part of a regional tour.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives PLO's 'Arafat in Riyadh

LD2401180494 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, today received in his office in al-Yamama Palace His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and aviation and general inspector, His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, emir of the Riyadh region, His Excellency, the special adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques, Mr. Ibrahim al-'Angari, and Mr. Mustafa Hashim, the charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the State of Palestine to the kingdom. [passage omitted]

PLO Aide Discusses Meeting

NC2501125494 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 25 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has sealed a reconciliation with Saudi King Fahd in a bid to revive political and financial backing from the oil-rich Gulf monarchies, Palestinian officials said Tuesday.

"This meeting was a success. It opens a new page in relations between the two sides," said an aide to 'Arafat.

King Fahd and the PLO chairman spent an hour on Monday "reviewing bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East peace process, especially the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy negotiations," he said, declining to be named.

Saudi television showed footage of the meeting but there was no comment from officials in Riyadh, which has spurned the PLO for the past three years for siding with Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

"King Fahd expressed his support and that of the Saudi Government to the Palestinian cause and people," senior PLO official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told reporters.

A Palestinian diplomat added: "The meeting was very friendly and it helped to blow away the summer storm in bilateral relations. The future is promising."

On Tuesday, 'Arafat met Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, who is the emir of Riyadh and an influential member of the royal family who heads a Saudi committee in charge of collecting funds for the Palestinians.

'Arafat later visited the mausoleum of the Prophet Muhammad in the western town of Medina and was to leave for Egypt to meet President Husni Mubarak for further talks on the launch of Palestinian self-rule.

On Sunday, he made a pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrines in Mecca.

Since the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, 'Arafat was not welcome in Saudi Arabia because of the Palestinians' support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Saudi Arabia, which had been the PLO's principal financial backer, cut off its annual 85.5-million-dollar subsidy in retaliation.

'Arafat last met King Fahd on August 8, 1990, six days after the invasion, and failed to persuade him to agree to an "Arab" solution to end the crisis instead of a Western military intervention.

The king spurned 'Arafat's initiative, and a US-led multinational coalition used Saudi Arabia as its launching pad for "Operation Desert Storm" which drove the Iraqis out of Kuwait in February 1991.

Fellow Gulf monarchies also cut off aid to the PLO, triggering a financial crisis within the organisation.

But the Saudi authorities allowed Prince Salman's committee to continue its work after the war, collecting 10 million dollars a year in voluntary contributions and deductions from the salaries of Palestinian workers.

By 1993 the kingdom had begun to soften its stance, pledging 100 million dollars to help implement Palestinian autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank region of Jericho.

"Relations with Saudi Arabia are a top priority for us," a Palestinian diplomat said.

Attempts for a reconciliation a year ago fell apart when 'Arafat received the "Mother of All Battles" medal from Saddam in Baghdad.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation is anxious to restore close ties with the kingdom, which is seen as the leader of the Gulf Arab states and would be a powerful ally as the PLO tries to launch its self-rule deal with Israel.

In September, 'Arafat visited Oman, the first Gulf monarchy to ease strains with the PLO. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar have also improved ties, but Kuwait insists on an official apology before it "forgives" 'Arafat.

Yemen

Salih Chairs Presidential Council Meeting

JN2401134494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The Presidential Council held a meeting under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today. During the meeting, the council discussed many issues and developments on the national, Arab, and international scene. The Presidential Council also examined the national situation in light of the overall developments on the national scene. It instructed the government to motivate the state's departments, institutions, and administrations to overcome the state of inactivity that has prevailed in them in light of the political crisis and its effects on their work and performance. [passage omitted]

Salih Receives Envoy, Invitation To Visit Jordan

JN2401204894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received brother Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, adviser to His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Al-Karaki relayed to the brother president a message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal on fraternal bilateral ties, issues of common interest, and the efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn to address the current challenges posed to our country.

The message said that the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan blesses the document of accord designed to build a modern Yemeni state agreed to by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, and deems it a positive

accomplishment. The message also invited the brother Presidential Council chairman to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The brother president expressed his thanks and appreciation for the efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal in this regard, as well as the heartfelt fraternal sentiments expressed by the fraternal Jordanians toward their brothers in Yemen and their concern for seeing our country cope with all the challenges posed to it so that unity and democracy may be safeguarded.

The brother president asked the Jordanian official to relay his greetings to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, as well as his wishes of continued good health and happiness to him, and of further progress and prosperity to the fraternal Jordanian people.

The meeting was attended by brother Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress; 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, director of the Presidential Council chairman's office; and Dr. Fayiz al-Rabi', Jordanian ambassador to Yemen.

Al-Bid Also Invited

JN2401211094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Presidential Council Vice Chairman brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid received brother Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, adviser to His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in Aden today. The Jordanian official relayed to brother al-Bid a message from His Majesty King Husayn on bilateral ties and the efforts made by his majesty the king and fraternal Jordanians to help our country cope with the crisis and address the difficulties and challenges posed to the efforts to build a modern Yemeni state.

The message said that His Majesty King Husayn welcomes and blesses the document of accord agreed to by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee. In his message, King Husayn also expressed a willingness to host a meeting of all concerned parties to sign the document of accord, saying that he is willing to make the necessary arrangements for such an event.

Presidential Council Vice Chairman brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn and fraternal Jordanians in this regard. He welcomed His Majesty King Husayn's invitation to all concerned parties for a meeting to endorse the document of accord. However, he said that the issue must be decided by the committee formed by dialogue committee, given that it is the party charged with setting a date and a venue for this event.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid asked his brother Dr. Khalid al-Karaki to relay his greetings to His Majesty King Husayn, as well as his wishes of continued good health and happiness to him, and of further progress and prosperity to the fraternal Jordanian people.

The meeting was attended by Aden Governor Salih Munassar al- Siyali and Jordanian Ambassador to Yemen Dr. Fayiz al-Rabi'.

Prime Minister Al-'Attas: Accord 'Last Chance'

JN2401121594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jan 94 p 22

[Interview with Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas by AL-DUSTUR correspondent Salih al-Qallab in Aden; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qallab] We have noticed that the subcommittee formed to follow up on the implementation of the accord document has not yet donce anything. Are there any obstacles in its way?

[Al-'Attas] On the contrary. The committee began its work yesterday (the day before yesterday) in the afternoon. It has drawn up a program to discuss what it is going to do. The committee is now discussing the venue for the endorsement of the agreement. Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman have been suggested as possibilities for the signing ceremony. We proposed Jordan in light of His Majesty King Husayn's concern about the crisis and his efforts to resolve it. The same goes for Sultan Qabus and many other brothers and friends.

After dealing with this point, the committee will move on to another. It will name the people who will attend the ceremony on Arab and international levels. This will give the ceremony more weight, since an international presence represents one of the guarantees for implementation of this agreement, which is the outcome of immense efforts made by all parties and political forces in Yemen.

In addition to these two tasks, the subcommittee should study security arrangements, so the leaders will be able to go to their workplaces. The question of security is very important and the entire Yemeni nation is preoccupied with it. The subcommittee also has to think about how it will go about implementing the accord after its endorsement and how to prevent any obstacles that could be presented by the parties harmed in the process.

[Al-Qallab] Do you think that some parties which signed the agreement are trying to go back on what they have signed and are trying to procrastinate?

[Al-'Attas] All the parties that signed the agreement have continued to welcome it and assert the need to implement it.

[Al-Qallab] Some Arabic newspapers have reported that House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar has some reservations about the document, even though his party has signed it. Is this true?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, this is true. I have also noticed that the AL-SAHWAH newspaper, which speaks for the Yemeni Reform Grouping, reflects something like this. These reservations were announced during the drafting and discussion of the document. However, after consultations and exchange of views, it was drafted without any reservations. I have to say here that after we drafted the document and while we were still in the conference hall, we noticed that some papers were circulated with new reservations, but these reservations were not accepted by the parties to the dialogue.

[Al-Qallab] When you say papers, do you mean the letter reportedly sent by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar to the subcommittee?

[Al-'Attas] Not at all. The letter of Shaykh 'Abdallah came before this stage, and was welcomed by the dialogue committee. However, we noticed that SABA' (the official Yemeni News Agency) did not report the fact that the dialogue committee welcomed the letter when it disseminated a report about the subject.

[Al-Qallab] The topical question one poses here and everywhere is about the nature of the challenge this document faces?

[Al-'Attas] This is not the first document that has been signed and not been implemented. However, it differs from the others because it will bring about major changes in Yemen, and will set Yemen on the right and sound path not only with respect to unity, but also with respect to the establishment of a modern state of institutions.

The big challenge we face is how to get support for this document and work together within a broad national framework to implement its provisions.

Here, I must point out that there are forces which have started to work against the document and its implementation. In my opinon, these forces will try more viciously in the future to abort what has been agreed upon. Therefore, we should secure Yemeni popular guarantees and even Arab and internBtional guarantees to foil the attempts of these forces and to have our country take the required step forward.

[Al-Qallab] Does this mean you expect some sort of action by the opposition forces to block the road to the implementation of this document?

[Al-'Attas] There is no doubt about this. That's why we propose Arab and international guarantees because we expect military action to harm the agreement and move in the opposite direction.

[Al-Qallab] We heard that a plane carrying foreign oil experts was hijacked two days ago while it was on its way from Sanaa to Sirwah and that there is tension on the military level there. Is this true?

[Al-'Attas] These acts are carried out by the forces which oppose unity. These forces revealed their real faces immediately following unity. They carried out several actions harming security and targeting Yemeni national figures, particularly Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders and cadres and some leaders of the General People's Congress [GPC], and figures from other parties.

In addition to this, these forces targeted oil companies, and what happened the day before yesterday is part of this ongoing series.

[Al-Qallab] Is the issue of the plane over, and have the hijackers given themselves up?

[Al-'Attas] No. Efforts are still under way. It is known that two days before the hijacking of this plane, another plane was hijacked. This reminds us of the incident of the kidnapping of the U.S. diplomat. As soon as he was released, a German national was kidnapped.

If you ask why these things occur, I will tell you it because the way we handle those who commit such deeds is wrong. For example, when a tribesman carries out a kidnapping, the authorities placate him instead of arresting him and taking him to court. This encourages others to do the same thing. This is one of the points on which I have not budged as I have repeatedly rejected placating kidnappers when they commit the crime of hijacking.

[Al-Qallab] We notice that you talk about those who carry out such acts as if they were ghosts. You are not giving names. Who are those people behind the kidnappings, explosions, and assassinations?

[Al-'Attas] We know the names and affiliations of those people, but we avoid talking about them because we are doing our best not to harm any party directly unless we are sure. You know that a person is innocent until proven guilty. The problem is that some people are trying to obstruct the activity of the judiciary, which should pass an honest, impartial judgment.

Giving a more active role to the judiciary would spare us many problems, especially concerning the trading of accusations between the major powers. For example, a certain party could be accused of being behind a certain incident, but the court could prove its innocence, and thus sedition would be prevented.

[Al-Qallab] Who is preventing the judiciary from playing its role?

[Al-'Attas] Last August, I addressed a letter to the Presidential Council asking for either the arrest of those who are carrying out the explosions and assassinations—who include Armed Forces officers—or sacking the Interior Ministry command, because it is not implementing the instructions it is receiving from the Prime Ministry. The government could also resign. The result was that only one person from the southern provinces was arrested and the police and security agencies in the southern and eastern provinces carried out their duty while the police in other provinces did not do anything.

[Al-Qallab] The YSP Central Committee—and you are a member of the YSP Political Bureau—has made a decision on the return of some ministers and senior officials to Sanaa. However, we see that you are still in Aden. Is this a position you have adopted?

[Al-'Attas] I am here for private reasons.

[Al-Qallab] You were the target of an assassination attempt a while ago, did you find out who was behind the attempt?

[Al-'Attas] Of the dozens of attempts that took place in Sanaa over a two-year period, my bodyguards managed to arrest one of the culprits while he was placing a large explosive device near my house. At the time, I was meeting with my deputies. Had the explosion occurred, it would really have been a disaster. The strange thing is that the emergency service was notified in advance that an explosion had occurred, but the ambulance went to another location by mistake. That person was caught in the act. Several reports were then sent to the Interior Ministry about the incident, but the reports were changed after they arrived at the ministry. It was later discovered that there was a great infiltration of the security agencies. I can say for sure that this applies to other attempts against several senior officials and some nationalist figures. I want to say that if the security question is not settled, things will get worse.

[Al-Qallab] You have said that you are staying here in Aden for private reasons. But in light of what you have just said and of the attempt on your life, and after you have been prevented from entering the capital of your country, I believe that your refusal to return to Sanaa is a glaring sign of protest. Is this true?

[Al-'Attas] Of course, this is absolutely true. This is because the continuation of this situation has very grave consequences for Yemen. It is difficult to go ahead when matters, including those concerning expenditure, are decided behind the back of the prime minister.

[Al-Qallab] We have heard that some 20 billion Yemeni riyals have been counterfeited. Is this true?

[Al-'Attas] First, I would like to say that there have been no cases of Yemeni bills being counterfeited. However, there have been some cases of other currencies being counterfeited.

[Al-Qallab] Can you give us examples?

[Al-'Attas] Yes. There have been cases of Saudi riyals and U.S. dollars being counterfeited. These two currencies are being used [in Yemen].

[Al-Qallab] If the document is signed but not implemented, will you remain in office, with the situation that you have described in mind?

[Al-'Attas] By God, I explicitly say that if the document is not signed, or signed but not implemented, I cannot stay in office.

[Al-Qallab] In this case—if the document is not signed, or signed but not implemented—do you not have fears for the unity of Yemen?

[Al-'Attas] This document is the last chance. If it is not signed and implemented, then no one can predict the volume of the catastrophe that will befall Yemen. Hence, I say that we refuse for the document to be accepted only in an attempt to abort it.

[Al-Qallab] I heard that your party has decided to unilaterally implement the document in the areas under your control even if the document is not signed?

[Al-'Attas] In practice, especially concerning local government, some steps can be taken in this regard.

[Al-Qallab] In the past, you—the YSP—were accused of being atheist and communist. Now, you are accused of being pro-Saudi and pro-Kuwaiti. Why are these charges made?

[Al-'Attas] These are nothing but political vituperations. Time has proven that these charges are unfounded. At this point, I would like to say that the YSP wants good relations with the neighboring states in the Arabian Peninsula. I also say that despite the known circumstances, our stance on the Gulf crisis has been clear.

[Al-Qallab] Will Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid return to Sanaa before the document is signed?

[Al-'Attas] Never. He will not return before the document is signed.

National Committee Demand May Delay Pact Signing

PM2501085894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jan 94 p4

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah]

[Excerpt] Aden— Brigadier General Khalid Baras, chairman of the National Committee stemming from the Hadramaut national conference in Yemen, has called for the amendment of the "document of pledge and accord" before it is signed. That was the first reaction to the document announced by the National Dialogue Committee for the settlement of the crisis between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Brig. Gen. Baras also requested a percentage of the oil royalties for Hadramaut. Observers fear that that demand might hinder the agreement as the Follow-up Committee holds its first meeting today to name the venue and set a date for the signing of the agreement by the Yemeni president, vice president, and House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar.

In his capacity as chairman of the national conference in the governorate of Hadramaut, Brig. Gen. Baras told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the document was not as broad as we had expected. He urged reconsideration on

the question of the percentage that the governorate or district should get of the oil and mineral wealth it produces and of its fishing resources, no matter how small.

Speaking on behalf of the Hadramaut Governorate, the biggest governorate and richest in oil, fish, and agricultural products, Brig. Gen. Baras said that giving a reasonable portion of the revenues of the wealth produced by each governorate to that governorate was a point included in the recommendations and demands of the Hadramaut national conference held in mid-December.

Baras is a veteran politician who recently resigned from the General Committee (Central Committee) of the General People's Congress led by Yemen's president because of the party's policies resulting in the country's crisis. He said: The districts should be granted more powers including promulgation of laws to safeguards many rights of the inhabitants. [passage omitted]

Signing of Accord Faces Difficulties Over Venue

PM2501113494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Hammud Munsir]

[Excerpt] Sanaa—The preparations for a meeting of the leaders of Yemen's ruling coalition parties to sign the document of pledge and accord are facing numerous difficulties, the most significant being disagreement over the venue.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from highly placed political sources in the government coalition that the committee charged with making the arrangements for the meeting continued its deliberations in Sanaa yesterday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib. It held its first meeting the day before yesterday but failed to reach agreement because of the vast difference between the proposals submitted by the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] and the General People's Congress [GPC].

The sources confirmed that the YSP suggested holding the meeting for signing the document in the Jordanian capital Amman under Arab and international sponsorship to guarantee implementation of the agreement as the basis for building the Yemeni state. The GPC, however, initially rejected that proposal and insisted that the signing should take place in any Yemeni city.

A high-ranking GPC source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed willingness to sign the agreement with his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Sanaa, Aden, or any other Yemeni city, but he does not want to go abroad because he does not want the issue to assume an international dimension. Political sources close to the coalition leadership, however, have stated that the GPC agreed late yesterday to the meeting being held in Amman provided that the president and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid return to Aden, after which the president would return to Sanaa.

Asked why al-Bid insists on remaining in Aden even after the signing, YSP officials told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the mere signing of the agreement would not eliminate the reasons which led the YSP leaders to leave Sanaa, especially the security reasons. They emphasized that the implementation of the provisions of the agreement should be the grounds for their return. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas Fears for Life Upon Return to Sanaa

JN2401131194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] In an interview published in Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH today, Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has voiced concern for his personal safety if he returns to Sanaa, in spite of the political agreement that has settled the political crisis between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the leaders of southern Yemen.

Al-'Attas emphasized the need to obtain direct guarantees to implement the agreement and to charge a mini-committee with this task.

Al-Sahhaf Briefs Assembly Committee on Foreign Policy

JN2401135194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] In a session today, the National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee hosted Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf. The minister gave a briefing on Iraqi policy concerning relations with neighboring Arab countries and the latest political developments concerning the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf explained that thanks to the instructions of leader President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi policy has yielded good results at the current stage, especially with respect to the change in the policies of some international powers. He hoped that the next stage will witness more positive developments in terms of understanding the nature of the existing conflict in the region in a manner that will contribute to bolstering regional security, stability, and prosperity, and to countering the challenges posed to the region's peoples.

Columnist on al-Asad 'Agreements' With U.S., Israel

JN2401185994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Jan 94 p 3

["Remark" column by Hasan al-Kashif: "The Golan and the Referendum"]

[Text] The Clinton-al-Asad agreement on the Golan has raised an open and hot debate in Israel, not in Syria. In his reply to the settlers' opposition to the principle of withdrawal from the Golan and the possibility of dismantling and evacuating the settlements there, Rabin proposed a general referendum to decide on the dispute over the future of the Golan.

Clinton's promises and pledges to maintain Israel's military edge over the Arabs are not enough. All the guarantees and concessions that Hafiz al-Asad offers are not enough. Because the Jew, who has become an Israeli, does not look at his huge gains in land, security, and superiority, but raises media and political battles concerning the tiny issue of the land of others that he will relinquish after imposing too many conditions.

The settlers do not feel secure about the future despite the U.S. proposals for deploying U.S. forces in a buffer zone in the Golan, in which U.S. military bases will shoulder the tasks of warning and security that are shouldered by the settlements at present.

To the Jew, who is skilled in blackmail, the U.S. presence in the Golan is a gain for Washington, and Israeli military power, which was created through U.S. support, is also a gain to Washington and its Middle East policy. Therefore, the U.S. policy of giving orders that will be applied by Arab rulers engaged in the settlement does not suit the rulers in Tel Aviv or the Israeli settlers.

According to U.S. plans for establishing a U.S. peace in the Middle East through Israeli-Arab agreements and through subjecting the rule of the Arab agents to the security, military, and economic needs of Washington, the Arab rulers should apply the U.S. orders.

We have not heard from a ruler participating in the settlement any promise to conduct a referendum on reconciliation with Tel Aviv, on establishing normal relations with it and on relinquishing most of the land of Palestine and some nearby Arab territories.

While we hear the enemy, which the colonialist West set up, speak about referendums on the fate of a land that does not belong to it, we do not hear Hafiz al-Asad asking the people of Syria about their opinion. This is because he knows well the Syrian people's opinion of their enemy, which is occupying some of their land and the whole of Palestine. Al-Asad also knows the opinion of the Syrian people on his regime, his personality, as well as his pan-Arab, international, and internal policies.

The strangest thing is that Hafiz al-Asad is opposed to the idea of a referendum, about which Rabin spoke to his settlers. This is because to al-Asad, the subject is really about agreements between presidents, with which the Syrian people have nothing to do, despite the fact that the Syrian people are the owners of the land. By this premise, why should the Israelis have an opinion on this subject?

This time we agree with Hafiz al-Asad's viewpoint. It is true that the Syrian people have nothing to do with al-Asad's agreements with Washington and Tel Aviv, because the Syrian people are innocent of these agreements and of al-Asad's signing of these agreements.

Resistance Claims Killing of 2 Regime Personnel

NC2401160994 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The Islamic Resistance forces attacked a patrol belonging to tyrant Saddam's security agency in (al-Mudhaynah) District, al-Basrah Governorate, last week.

Reporting this, our sources in south Iraq said a fierce clash ensued between the Islamic Resistance men and the regime's patrol in which two men from the security agency were killed and two others wounded. [passage omitted]

After the heroic attack, the Islamic Resistance forces distributed leaflets warning the regime's security, intelligence, and party officials who commit brutal crimes against the public that the people will retaliate if they do not stop oppressing citizens.

Official Criticizes Continued UN 'Blockade'

JN2401194494 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 20 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, first under secretary of the Culture and Information Ministry: "Beware of the Patient Man's Rage"]

[Text] The UN Security Council issued a routine statement on 18 January in which it renewed the unjust blockade for 60 days. As in the previous statements, the majority of the Security Council could not justify the continuation of the blockade.

This time, however, the ambassadors of some member states of the Security Council expressed strong protests. The Chinese ambassador called strongly for the lifting the blockade, while the ambassadors of Spain, Brazil, and Nigeria reiterated this stand. The French ambassador, as well as the British ambassador, noted the positive stands adopted by Iraq. Despite this, the Security Council issued a statement, without introducing any amendments, because of the U.S. ambassador's insistence on this. The U.S. ambassador expressed her government's concern over the security of Iraq's neighbors.

We, in Iraq, realize that the blockade no longer has any justification, and our friends realize this, as well. Now, the camp of the enemies has begun to collapse and some of its members have become aware of the dangerous political game played by the managers of U.S. interests and their agents in the region, who are besieging Iraq at the expense of their people and at the expense of the interests of other nations and countries.

We also are aware that the Americans want us to guarantee the security of the bandits, the rulers of the Kuwait governorate and Saudi Arabia. They want us to relinquish the rights of our people and nation in Palestine, imagining that the wisdom and necessity of implementing the Security Council resolutions—despite their injustice—will make Iraq accept whatever it is asked for.

The Iraqis will not say more than what leader Saddam Husayn said on the third anniversary of the aggression: They will not turn wisdom into a prelude for weakness and despair. The Iraqis will not remain silent at the continuation of the blockade and the violation of Iraqi airspace. We will never abandon our people in northern Iraq. If we become certain—despite our patience and the good offices exerted by our friends to end the abnormal situation resulting from the blockade and the violations of Iraqi sovereignty in the north and south—we are capable of bringing the game back to the beginning. [sentence as published] We are the original people in this region and we are the ones who own everything on our land. We will not allow the agents, lowly people, or coveters to encroach on what we own, on our rights, and on our dignity. As the leader said, the punishment of the criminals will be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. The Arabs say: "Beware of the patient man's rage."

Editorial: Use Exchange Rates To Judge Government

JN2501091494 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 20 Jan 94 p 1

[Editorial by Abu-Sirhan: "The Gap"]

[Text] Two events attracted the attention of the Iraqis over the past two weeks. The people expressed pride in these two events and talked about them in their private discussions. The first of these events is the leader president's meeting with the Armed Forces command members and his explanation of events in the Mother of Battles, and the second is his excellency's speech on the third anniversary of the great confrontation.

After the speech was carried on the TV screen the evening of 16 January, the dollar prices rose to 160 dinars [D]. The dollar prices continued to rise against the dinar over the past two days, reaching D169 at 1400 on 19 January, and up to D171 by the end of that day.

This shows that our enemy, which has not been able to wrench anything from us and failed to realize a clear military victory or a historical triumph, as the leader president said, has made some gains in the arena of the economic battle. Therefore, we have retreated a step. This shows that there is always a gap between the leader and his way of thinking on the one hand and the implementing tools on the other. The following facts explain this:

When the new cabinet took office and made a number of decisions, the dollar price jumped from D68 to D80. Later, the dollar jumped to D150, dropped to D130, and continued to range between D130 and D135. Now it stands at D171. The real danger is that while in the past decisions reflected various aspects, they now reflect only the political aspect in isolation from other aspects because our departments commit mistakes in dealing with the blockade and the continuous pressure from abroad. Political decisions now are associated with economic facts that are not in harmony with them. They do not go hand in hand to realize their target. This prompts us to deal with this issue seriously, with extreme precision, and with an academic intelligence [dhaka' akadimi] coupled with the actual conditions. Why?

The UN Security Council statements say: "Two months have elapsed since the Security Council issued its resolution on long-term monitoring of Iraq. Twelve months must pass in order to ascertain Iraq's goodwill and be able to discuss or lift the embargo."

The statements of the French have become so ugly, exactly like their treatment of strangers in their land. Their statements are like their behavior and the behavior of their president, Mitterrand the supercilious, who is completely connected with the morals and behavior of those who ruled the Fourth Republic.

Let us consider the following: In the past, when the dollar was exchanged for D30, we made our observations in a

newspaper column. When it reached D60, we held a discussion, which did not last more than 15 minutes, to express observations and point out the negative aspects of the rising dollar prices. When the dollar price exceeded D100, we held a one and a half hour discussion to make some observations. If we want to discuss the current conditions, we will have to spend no less than two or three hours in order to propose solutions. This means that those who are responsible for implementing decisions do not benefit from these observations. Their work is confused. This is proved by the fact that after every meeting of the ministerial committee charged with the economic conditions, the dinar slumps further and further.

Therefore, we suggest that each ministerial portfolio be dealt with in accordance with its achievements. And this is directly connected with the dinar and dollar prices, because this issue is casting a dark shadow and is affecting the daily life of the citizen. Therefore, the following yardstick should be the slogan: A rise in the dollar price means failure and a drop means success.

The proof that there is a difference between the source of the decisions, which is the comrade leader, and the mode of thinking of the implementers is that his treatment of the rise in the dollar was quick and had a clear effect on the life of the citizen; namely, increasing the citizens provisions. This method is much better than economic measures that could have been taken and whose results would only appear in the long run without the citizen feeling them because of the rise in the dollar exchange rate.

U.S. 'Spy' Plane Violations Protested to UN

JN2501112294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] New York, 25 Jan (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations against the U.S. U-2 spy plane's violation of its airspace under the pretext of conducting aerial surveys for the UN Special Commission.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali yesterday, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that on 3, 17, 18, and 19 of January, this plane overflew large areas of Iraq and then headed back for its base in Saudi Arabia.

The letter reiterated Iraq's belief that this plane is being used for purposes other than those specified by the Security Council and that its activity prejudices Iraq's security and sovereignty.

Rabin on Negotiations With Jordan, Syria

TA2401165194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that there will not be a breakthrough in the deliberations on a peace agreement with Jordan in the coming months, but there will be progress on other issues. The Jordanians, Mr. Rabin said, have raised three issues: water, border demarcation, and refugee return. Israel has made it clear that there is nothing to discuss on the refugee issue since that belongs to the negotiations with the Palestinians, and even then only in discussions on the permanent settlement. Mr. Rabin also said there are signs that the gaps are closing in the deliberations with the Palestinians, but that we have to be careful and not make overly optimistic statements. He also said that even if an agreement is reached in Foreign Minister Peres meeting with 'Arafat in Davos, there will still be a need to discuss economic issues in Taba and Paris. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister made the remarks when he left the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 24 January quotes Mr. Rabin as saying that "the peace process with Syria will be decided this year. In a recorded passage, Mr. Rabin says: 'I have no doubt that 1994 will decide which direction developments take in the longer run—especially with Syria and perhaps with other elements in the Arab world: whether there will be peace or deadlock and tension, with all the subsequent ramifications, but not necessarily war in late 1994.'"

The report quotes Mr. Rabin as also saying "he does not want to forecast what the direction will be, but the present circumstances give peace a chance. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that on leaving the Knesset House Committee, Mr. Rabin was also asked about Major General 'Uzi Dayan's remarks that a rupture in the process with Syria could lead to war. Rabin said the use of the word war was unfortunate, and he would have been more careful in his remarks."]

Rabin Consults With Peres, Leaves for Strasbourg

TA2501114394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left this morning for Strasbourg, where he is to address the European Parliament. Before leaving, Rabin held consultations with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in preparation for Peres' meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Davos, Switzerland.

The discussion was long and detailed, and was attended by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] generals, and Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, who will accompany Peres in Davos. It was stressed that Israel would retain control of the external crossing points; there would be no PLO presence on the Jordan bridges. At the terminals, Israel would retain the right to check any person or object that gave grounds for suspicion; however, every effort would be made to make Israeli control of the terminal less visible.

Rabin on Labor Adherence to Territorial Compromise

TA2001123294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Report by 'Anat Peleg]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's meeting with about 2,800 high school seniors at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv ended some 30 minutes ago. His entrance, as well as his remarks, was met with mixed reactions: applause along with boos.

We are tomorrow's soldiers, the students said, asking the prime minister how al-Asad's Sunday [16 January] news conference in Geneva affected his view of the essence of peace with Syria. The prime minister replied that President al-Asad's remarks did not meet his expectations. I was disappointed with the fact that President Clinton alone replied to the question on the nature of peace, Rabin said, but we will pursue the negotiations with Syria because we want to be able to look your parents straight in the eye. Under the Labor party platform, we are committed to act toward peace.

To the students' surprise, he dissociated himself from his pre-election statement that the Golan is an inseparable part of the State of Israel:

[Begin Rabin recording] You say that before the elections, I promised that the Golan Heights is an inseparable part of Israel. Show me where it was that I promised this before the elections! What did I say? [applause and boos] Never mind, never mind. [end recording]

He added: We have discussed territorial compromise, and we will act to achieve it. What are the red lines that warrant Israel's backing out of its agreement with the PLO? In his reply, Rabin warned of the implications of such a step:

[Begin Rabin recording] When a legally elected government signs an agreement but does not abide by it, you should know that the next day, Arab countries would see it as a license not to abide by their agreements with us. [applause] Nothing is more serious than that. [end recording]

The young people wanted to know how the prime minister will react to soldiers' disobeying orders to evacuate settlers in the territories. Rabin replied that disobedience motivated by political considerations would be the end of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

He chose to conclude with praise for the unique dedication and loyalty of Israeli youths, who go through compulsory army service duty as if they were volunteering.

Shahaq on Talks, Fugitives, 'War' in Lebanon

TA2501151894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff, today briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Shahaq, who also heads the Security Committee of the Taba talks, said that the talks will resume on 31 January, provided that issues currently in disagreement will be settled in the upcoming meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Our Knesset correspondent Tamar Asalem reports:

[Begin recording] [Asalem] Maj. Gen. Shahaq, deputy chief of staff, like all the other persons involved in the peace talks, is waiting for the results of the Peres-'Arafat meeting next weekend. Shahaq said that the prime minister and the foreign minister were briefed this morning about the Army's security stands, which will be presented in the meeting with 'Arafat. If indeed agreements are made over the weekend, the Security Committee of the Taba talks will reconvene as soon as 31 January.

Gen. Shahaq addressed the claim that Fatah Hawks have been joining Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and taking part in terror attacks against Israel:

[Shahaq] We have witnessed cases where some of those identified with the Fatah Hawks said they do not accept the PLO or Fatah authority, that they are quitting the organization, and that they will continue to fight against us. We, at the same time, stated that we will continue fighting them until we catch them.

[Asalem] Shahaq added that the PLO does not yet have full authority over the field, and cannot impose its will on individuals who quit Fatah. In any event, Shahaq said, the IDF will be in charge of capturing the fugitives until April. I do not know what status they will have in the eyes of the Palestinian police force, he added.

Gen. Shahaq stated that a real war is being waged in south Lebanon.

[Shahaq] This is war, waged daily in more than one way by more than one organization—not just Hizballah fights us and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] there. The IDF and the SLA soldiers carry the burden of this war in south Lebanon.

[Asalem] Shahaq said that the number of incidents in the north has doubled last year, in comparison to 1992. Nevertheless, over the past several weeks, there has been a decline in the volume and nature of Hizballah activity. The Army explains this by the fact that Syria had pressured Hizballah before the Clinton-al-Asad summit last week.

Regarding Syria, Gen. Shahaq addressed himself to the remarks by Major General 'Uzi Dayan [that war may break out this year if the peace talks fail], and said that he fails to understand the storm they caused. According to Shahaq, Dayan was not presenting an evaluation of the situation, rather he presented working assumptions of the Planning Branch, which is a routine matter.

To conclude, Shahaq was asked about his personal stand regarding the fact that members of the Knesset committee have occassionaly been wondering about the involvement of military men in peace negotiations. Shahaq answered that he does not have a problem with this and, should he have a problem with it, he will present it to the appropriate officials. [end recording]

Ministries Approve Allocation for Redeployment

TA2101121994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jan 94 p 3

[Report by 'Eran Klein]

[Text] The defense establishment will receive a special allocation of 325 million shekels to finance the redeployment in Gaza and Jericho. An agreement to this effect was reached this week by top Finance and Defense Ministry officials.

The source of the allocation has not been established yet, but Finance Minister Avraham Shohat announced yesterday that he will refuse to approve a supplementary budget and that the funds will have to be created by changing the present budget priorities.

Under the agreement, 250 million shekels will be allocated for the evacuation and the construction of new headquarters, for new fences and roads, and for other evacuation-related expenses. Approximately 25 million shekels will be allocated for settlement security in the current year and about 25 million shekels for settlement security next year. The settlements in question are those situated in the territories and along the Green Line.

The Finance Ministry has rejected the demands for additional allocations from the defense establishment and other elements. It is believed in Jerusalem that the top Finance Ministry echelons may decide at some stage to finance some of the expenditures from the budget that had been earmarked for fighting the intifadah.

Committee Plans for Jerusalem Expansion Detailed

TA2501113694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jan 94 p A1

[Report by correspondent in Jerusalem Nadav Shragay]

[Text] A joint governmental and Jerusalem Municipality committee of experts states that unless a series of activities involving construction and expansion is implemented in the greater Jerusalem area, the city will become a "deadend city," with Arab building activity closing in on the city from the south, north, and east.

An interim report submitted by the committee deals with the area that was to be included in the greater

Jerusalem area by the national unity government in 1987—from Bet El in the north, Hebron in the south, Mitzpe Yeriho in the east, and Bet Shemesh in the west. The report states that "Jerusalem will wither" unless large areas within the greater Jerusalem area are treated as areas set aside for the city's expansion.

The classified report was submitted two days ago to Mayor Ehud Olmert and three of his aides—Uri Lupoliansky, Me'ir Porush, and Shmu'el Me'ir—who are in charge of planning and construction at the Jerusalem Municipality.

According to the committee's figures, 1.125 million people—55 percent of them Jews and 45 percent Arabs—currently reside in the greater Jerusalem area. Some 47 percent of the greater Jerusalem area residents—72 percent of them Jews and 28 percent Arabs—live in Jerusalem proper. The committee assesses that by 2010, the weight of the Arab population in Jerusalem itself will grow to 31 percent, with 69 percent Jews.

According to the report, 48 percent of the greater Jerusalem area population—90 percent of them Arabs and 10 percent Jews—lives outside Jerusalem proper today. An additional 5 percent of the population resides in "the rest of the district," mainly in the western part of the greater Jerusalem area.

In one of the working papers submitted to the directors general committee on Jerusalem in the last few years, it was stated that "it will be necessary to operate in the greater Jerusalem area—within the city's municipal borders and beyond them—on the basis of two different sets of laws. At the same time, it will be imposible to act toward maintaining a demographic balance and to expand construction within Jerusalem's municipal area without implementing compatible, albeit different, moves across the Green Line."

The interim report submitted by the committee outlines such moves. One of the experts involved in the Greater Jerusalem area planning work has said that what is involved here is a de facto annexation of the area surrounding the city, even if this is camouflaged in various formulations.

According to the expert, the obvious intention is to award the Jerusalem area a special status within the framework of any possible future arrangement on the West Bank. Even if this area will not be under the jurisdiction of Israeli law, it will have a clear, practical link to Jerusalem.

In order to attain this objective, the committee recommends expanding Ma'ale Adumim in the direction of Jerusalem; linking it territorially to Pisgat Ze'ev; linking Giv'at Ze'ev to the Ramot neighborhood; and expanding the 'Etzyon Bloc toward Betar and the 'Adulam region.

The committee recommends that road No. 45 from Modi'in to 'Atarot in northern Jerusalem be built immediately and that all the land necessary be expropriated toward that end. The committee's plans call for creating "joint Jewish-Arab zones" for industrial and tourism projects between Modi'in and 'Atarot along road No. 45.

The committee also recommends separating Arab and Jewish residential areas and treating the greater Jerusalem area as a unified functional space with open borders and a joint economic framework with Jerusalem.

The committee's steering team, which is continuing the greater Jerusalem area planning work, is headed by Shemaryahu Kohen, formerly head of the Jerusalem District in the Construction and Housing Ministry, and Professor Adam Mazor.

Opposition Claims Victory in Golan Resolution Vote

TA2001055794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The fate of yesterday's Knesset vote on the opposition resolution over the future of the Golan Heights remains in question, with the Likud threatening legal action against the Knesset speaker. Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss has decided to refer the matter to the Knesset's legal adviser.

The Likud statement, calling for a continued Israeli presence on the Golan, was defeated by one vote, but four opposition MK's [Knesset Members] said their votes were not registered even though they pressed the correct button in the electronic vote. Now Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss says he is willing to hold the vote again next week, if both sides agree, but as David Ze'ev reports, the Likud wants him to change the result without a revote.

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Likud caucus chairman Moshe Qatzav says he is considering going to the High Court if House Speaker Shevah Weiss does not reverse the outcome of the plenum vote on the statement over the future of the Golan Heights. The coalition declaration of the Labor party and the Meretz bloc at the end of the Golan debate was endorsed without controversy. It said simply that the Knesset registers before it the government's position on the Golan Heights as stated by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur earlier in the debate. But the statement by the opposition—Likud, Tzomet, and the National Religious Party—borrows terminology from the Labor platform, a move to embarrass the government. It calls for maintaining an Israeli military and settlement presence on the Golan. It failed by one vote, but four opposition MK's say their votes were not registered, and, in fact, on the Knesset computer sheet their names do not appear. [passage omitted]

There are two issues at stake. One is a Knesset rule which says that the House speaker must change the result of a vote accordingly if Knesset members inform him of a problem after the voting procedure has been completed. That is the point emphasized by the Likud's Moshe Qatzav, who says the House speaker is distorting the will

of the Knesset. But the speaker counters with what he says is the dangerous precedent that would be established if MK's start complaining that the computerized voting system sometimes gives the wrong result. [end recording]

Labor Mayor Ousts Likud Man for Local Council Chair

TA2001160794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] There has been an upheaval in the Union of Local Authorities in Israel. Karmi'el Mayor 'Adi Eldar has emerged victorious in the struggle to head the union. Eldar belongs to the Labor party. He won with a small margin of votes over his predecessor, Likud activist Maxim Levi. The third candidate, Eli Landau from Herzliyya, garnered 23 votes, later claiming that by drawing votes away from Maxim Levi he had influenced the results.

Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, who directed Eldar's election campaign, said that it was the Arab vote that had proved decisive. The voting turnout was 100 percent. 'Adi Eldar, the elected chairman, praised Maxim Levi for exhibiting fair play. He said that he would enact changes in the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, noting that from now on all local council heads and mayors in Israel would work together.

Moledet Knesset Member Gutman To Establish Rival List

TA2501140394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] A member of the right-wing Moledet party has announced he is breaking away and setting up a rival list to contest the next general election. Sha'ul Gutman said their main policy plank would be transfer of the Arab population. He claimed the existing party, under Rehav'am Ze'evi, no longer represented this policy. The new group is to be led by Miryam Lapid of Hebron, who lost her husband and son in a terrorist attack.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 25 January adds that "the new movement is called Peace Guard [mishmeret shalom], and transfer is its motto."]

NRP Submits No-Confidence Motion Over Yeshiva

TA2001115094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] has submitted a motion of no confidence in the government over the decision to evict yeshiva students from the ancient Jericho synagogue. The case involves a building the Civil Administration plans to renovate and open to the public as an archaeological site.

Knesset Member Hanan Porat, one of the initiators behind the motion, says the prime minister has told his aides that he does not want the yeshiva to remain on that site under autonomy. Members of the improvised Jericho yeshiva have decided to guard the place in shifts in a bid to prevent eviction by the Army. This was reported by our correspondent Ron Nesi'el.

Mordekhay on Anticipated Escalation in Lebanon

TA2401194294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, told our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David tonight that Hizballah has been trying for 24 hours to escalate the confrontation in Lebanon.

[Begin recording] [Ben-David] Now that the meeting with President Clinton is over, have the Syrians let the reins loose again in Lebanon?

[Mordekhay] It was anticipated that on the day the talks open in Washington they will escalate the situation and try to make Hizballah and the confrontation in Lebanon the top news item, since this has usually been the way they have acted when talks begin. I believe we have the necessary answers and the confrontation continues in the security zone.

[Ben-David] Do you think that as long as the negotiations continue and no progress is made there the Syrians will continue to conduct the war in Lebanon?

[Mordekhay] We believed in the past and still believe that if the Syrians want, they can significantly restrain Hizballah activities in south Lebanon against the security zone, the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and against Israel. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 24 January reports that "SLA soldiers managed to foil a terrorist attempt to overtake an SLA outpost in the 'Alman al-Shumariyah area in the security zone. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that Hizballah fired mortars and katyushas at the outpost, and under cover of the shelling tried to capture the post, but were warded off. An SLA soldier was killed, and two were wounded in the attack. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA troops pursued the terrorists."]

'Acting' Central Command Head Appointed

TA2001155794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Major General Dani Yatom has acceded to the request of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq and accepted a temporary appointment as acting commander of the Central Command. Maj. Gen. Yatom will resume his duties as the prime minister's military secretary as soon as another officer is permanently appointed to head the Central Command.

Meanwhile, Colonel 'Amos Gil'ad will replace Maj. Gen. Yatom at the prime minister's bureau.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that Maj. Gen. Yatom served as commander of the Central Command until approximately 10 months ago.

IDF Reports Provide Casualty Data for 1993

TA2001180194

[Editorial Report] Three reports in Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ and one in Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 20 January carry data presented by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] on the number of incidents and casualties during military activity in 1993.

A report from the Knesset by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zrahya on page A6 of HA'ARETZ cites a report presented yesterday to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee by Major General Yoram Ya'ir, head of the IDF Personnel Branch. According to the report, "45 IDF soldiers were killed in enemy activity last year; 26 of them were killed in the security zone in south Lebanon and 19 were killed in the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip." The figures indicate a "significant rise in the number of IDF casualties from enemy activity; 24 soldiers were killed in 1992, and 11 in 1991."

Gen. Ya'ir further reports that, compared to 37 fatalities due to accidents in 1992, 17 IDF soldiers were killed in accidents in 1993, according to the following breakdown: seven soldiers were killed in military traffic accidents, five in operational accidents, three in gun and ammunition accidents, one in a labor accident, and one other was electrocuted. "Gen. Ya'ir noted with satisfaction that not a single soldier was killed in training accidents last year (as compared to 10 fatalities in 1992)." The report cites Gen. Ya'ir as saying that "despite the efforts the IDF has made to prevent suicides, 38 soldiers committed suicide last year (31 standing Army, four career soldiers, and three reservists)." Ya'ir notes that in only two of the cases, a direct link was established between the suicide and the soldier's military service.

Knesset correspondent Gabi Bron and military correspondent Arye Kiesel write on page 13 of YEDI'OT AHARONOT: "In 1993, there was a dramatic rise in reports of 'near casualty' in IDF accidents: 1,080, as compared to several hundred in 1992." The report further says that "in 1993, there was a dramatic drop in the number of aerial accidents in the IDF, when compared to the dozens of such accidents in the 1970's and 1980's. The damage caused by fatal aerial accidents last year stands at $14 million, as compared with $170 million in damages by the end of the 1970's."

Citing data presented by "officers at the Central Command summing up last year's statistics," HA'ARETZ military correspondent Eytan Rabin writes on page A5: "In 1993, there was a rise in the number of armed terror attacks against Israeli targets in the territories. At the same time, there was a 48-percent drop in the total number of terror attacks, as compared to 1992." Rabin says that "the majority of terror attacks in the territories in 1993 was directed against the Jewish settlers, and 15 of the 20 military and civilian fatalities were killed in armed attacks." The report cites the following figures for last year: there were 994 attacks against IDF troops and collaborators, as compared with 1,917 in 1992; 16,253 stone-throwing incidents and riots were registered in 1993, compared with 19,627 in 1992; and in 1993, the IDF arrested 4,410 Palestinian residents.

The correspondent adds that, leading last year's armed terror attacks, were fugitives from the various terror organizations. He adds that the security forces managed to foil "a large number of attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The number of these attacks rose after the closure was imposed on the territories." The report adds that most of the Hamas fugitives were killed in IDF operations or suicide attacks last year. The report adds that "153 incidents in which settlers rioted were registered in 1993. Of them, seven included the use of fire arms, and damage was caused to 34 cars and 10 houses."

Eytan Rabin cites another IDF document on page A1 of HA'ARETZ, which says that in 1993, 400 Palestinians were hurt in the West Bank; 64 of them were killed, 50 were seriously injured, and 286 were lightly to moderately injured. "The document indicates that between July and December 1993, eight Palestinian children under 10 years of age were shot by IDF troops, and at least two of them were killed." "An internal Central Command document" adds the following breakdown of Palestinian casualties of IDF fire: "21 aged between 11 and 16; 49 aged between 17 and 22; 30 aged between 23 and 35; and 23 were over 35 years old; at least two were over 80."

"IDF data for 1993 indicates that 13 Israeli civilians were killed in shooting incidents in the territories, three were seriously injured, five were moderately wounded, and 19 suffered light injuries."

Ministry Denies Reported Plans for U.S. Fleet Base

TA2501082594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry denies reports that it has proposed to turn Haifa Port into the home base of the 6th Fleet in the framework of the guarantees Israel will receive in exchange for withdrawing from parts of the Golan Heights. The denial was made in reaction to claims by Tzomet Knesset Member [MK] Eli'ezer Sandberg, who resides in Haifa. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports:

[Begin recording] [Schmerling] Tzomet MK Eli'ezer Sandberg fears that the Haifa Bay will be exposed to possible leaks of radioactive materials or even to a nuclear disaster if Haifa Port becomes the U.S. 6th Fleet's home base:

[Sandberg] A home base means the long-term physical presence of nuclear-powered vessels and ships carrying nuclear weapons in Haifa Bay. I queried the defense minister about this issue; I also asked whether the ongoing negotiations regarding turning Haifa Port into a home base for the 6th Fleet are somehow tied to Israeli promises of a withdrawal from the Golan Heights and meant as a sort of alternative security guarantee.

[Schmerling] The Defense Ministry's answer to the residents of Haifa is that there are no negotiations with the Americans on turning Haifa Bay into a home base for the 6th Fleet as an alternative in the event of a possible withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The Defense Ministry confirmed, however, that nuclear-powered vessels and submarines have visited Haifa Bay dozens of times. They have taken all possible precautions, however, while keeping the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, the Environment Ministry, and the Ports Authority informed and involved. The Defense Ministry promises that now, too, all the necessary measures are being implemented to make sure there are no leaks and disasters resulting from radioactive materials. [end recording]

Perry Nomination Welcomed; 'Fair' Approach Noted

TA2501053694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Israeli circles in Washington welcome the anticipated appointment of Dr. William Perry as the next U.S. secretary of defense. President Clinton announced Dr. Perry's nomination yesterday, but it still requires congressional approval. The Israeli sources said that William Perry has evinced an extremely fair and professional attitude in all contacts with him over the last year in his capacity as deputy secretary of defense.

Egypt Seeks Gas Deal, Concerned Over Qatari Contacts

TA2501054694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Egypt is interested in selling gas to Israel and is concerned about the possibility that Israel will purchase natural gas from Qatar. The two countries have decided to set up a joint committee early next month to examine the possibility and feasibility of importing gas from Egypt.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that following Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal's meetings with Qatari representatives in London, it has transpired that Qatar is interested in implementing the deal with Israel, but its economic viability is still being examined.

Shahal: All Crude Oil Now Bought in Arab World

TA2401202994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Israel is currently purchasing all its crude oil in the Arab world, 40 percent from Egypt, and the rest from other Arab states via intermediaries. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal today officially announced that Israel has stopped buying oil in Mexico.

Shahal Rejects Russian Nuclear Technology Deal

TA2001060494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has turned down an offer from Russia to sell nuclear technology to Israel. The minister has just returned from a visit to Russia, which included a tour of a nuclear power plant. The minister explained why he refused the offer:

[Begin Shahal recording] I am not in favor of entering or buying existing technology for nuclear power plants. I think that Israel and probably the world will have to wait many years for a new technology, a safer technology. The Russians mentioned that in the past, during the time when Professor Yuval Ne'eman was the minister of energy and afterwards in a meeting with Prof. Amnon Rubinstein, there were talks by the Israeli Government to have a sort of a joint venture for a nuclear power plant. I mentioned and I explained our policy that we are more interested in the scientific question, in cooperation together maybe with Russia and the United States, but for future technologies, not the existing ones. Basically, I would say the government is not involved in buying energy supply as it was some years ago. I explained the new structure that we have here. [end recording]

Clinton's Space Industry Message Met With 'Doubt'

TA2001143694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jan 94 p A2

[Report by Sharon Sade]

[Excerpts] U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement that Israeli companies may bid for civilian tenders in the U.S. space industry was received by the Israeli defense industries with restraint and doubt.

Defense sources yesterday commented very cautiously regarding the practical implications of the U.S. announcement. Although they estimate that it implies a technological and political breakthrough, it is still early to determine whether Israel will be able to immediately reap the benefits of the decision. [passage omitted]

According to defense sources, Israel's involvement in the U.S. space market was nearly frozen last year by the State Department—backed by the Pentagon—when it tried to enter the market.

According to the sources, Israel needs to begin getting involved with the U.S. market now by seeking new business partnerships with local elements, and bidding jointly for the tenders. Even then, the sources said, there is no guarantee Israeli companies will win. Therefore, the

declaration that this new approval would create many jobs in Israeli and U.S. needs to be qualified. [passage omitted]

Mukhtar Shot Dead for 'Cooperating' With Israel

TA2301143194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Jan 94

[Text] The mukhtar of the village of Sanniriyah, in the Tulkarm area, was fatally shot this morning. He was suspected of cooperating with the authorities. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that masked men shot him in the village and then fled. He was evacuated to hospital where he later died of his injuries.

Man Stabbed to Death by Arab in Rishon Leziyyon

TA2101073194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Text] There was a stabbing attack at the Rose Garden Junction in Rishon Leziyyon this morning. A man, aged about 60, was stabbed to death by an Arab, who managed to escape. Our correspondent 'Ofer Vardi gives us more details:

The incident took place a short time ago. The man who was stabbed, aged about 60, was working in his orange grove near the junction when an Arab, apparently a laborer working in the area, suddenly attacked him with a knife. The man died a few minutes later. The assailant fled, and large police forces are conducting a manhunt for him.

Motorist Injured in Stoning Incident

TA2001201494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] An Israeli citizen was moderately injured in the head this evening by glass shards after her car's windshield was shattered by stones in the village of Huwwarah in the Nablus District. The woman received first aid at a nearby military base and was evacuated to a hospital. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has imposed a curfew on Huwwarah and launched searches.

Gaza Explosion Injures 2 Soldiers, 4 Arabs

TA2001115394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Two soldiers were slightly wounded by an explosive charge in Khan Yunus. Our correspondent Ninim Qeynan reports that a homemade explosive charge was thrown at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in Khan Yunus this morning. Two soldiers were injured by shrapnel, and four local residents who were at the site of the explosion also suffered injuries. The IDF has launched searches for those who threw the bomb.

The two soldiers were taken to the hospital, and a local car rushed the four locals to al-Nasir Hospital.

Houses Allegedly Damaged by IDF Missiles in Gaza

TA2401190094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Iman Abu-Sita, suspected of involvement in the murder of David Bublin and Hayim Weizmann in Ramla, was captured in Rafah today. The residents of the Rafah neighborhood where the capture took place said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] used anti-tank missiles and that seven houses were damaged, one of which was completely destroyed. The IDF's Southern Command's reaction was that during an initiated operation in Rafah, grenades were used to break into and clear a house, after which an armed wanted man was captured.

King Briefs U.S. Arab Envoys on Clinton Meeting

JN2501084194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Amman, (PETRA)—Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur received at their residence here Monday [24 January] Arab ambassadors to the United States. The King briefed the envoys on his meeting with President Bill Clinton, Jordan's support for the peace process and the necessity to bring about a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East. He stressed the need for a unified Arab position and a high level of coordination among the Arab countries. Present at the meeting were Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Minister of Information Jawad al-'Anani, Minister of Finance Sami Qammuh and Jordanian ambassador to the U.S. Fayiz al-Tarawinah.

Prince Hasan: Tests Show King 'Completely Cured'

JN2501082194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 94 pp 1,5

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, said Monday [24 January] that the recent tests that His Majesty King Husayn underwent at the Mayo clinic in the United States proved beyond any doubt that he was completely cured and that there was no trace whatsoever of the disease that warranted surgery a year and a half ago.

"I would like to break the news to you that there is no trace of any disease," the Regent said at a meeting held at the al-Salt Community College attended by notables and deputies from al-Balqa' Governorate and heads of local government departments.

The Regent said King Husayn had reassured him in a telephone conversation about his health and conveyed his best greetings to the Jordanian people. [passage omitted]

King's Adviser Returns From Visit to Yemen

JN2401201494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, adviser to His Majesty King Husayn, today returned to Amman from Sanaa following a one-day visit to Yemen, during which he met with Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Yemeni Presidential Council chairman, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice chairman. He conveyed a message to them from His Majesty King Husayn concerning the brotherly ties between the two countries and the next stage in the implementation of the agreement reached by the national dialogue committee that represents the Yemeni political forces to guarantee an end to all differences and protect Yemen's unity and the march of national unity and democracy.

The Yemeni president and vice president voiced appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and his efforts to put an end to the crisis in Yemen.

Al-'Aqabah Mayor Rejects Invitation To Visit Elat

JN2501075494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Al-'Aqabah, (PETRA)—Commenting on reports by Israeli radio and television yesterday that he received the wife of Elat's mayor and an invitation to visit the city of Elat, al-'Aqabah Mayor Ibrahim Abu-al-'Izz explained that he was told that the Belgian consul in Switzerland would like to visit him, along with his private secretary.

Abu-al-'Izz added that upon receiving the two guests in his private office at the municipality, he was surprised to discover that the woman with the Belgian consul was the wife of Elat's mayor who holds a Swiss passport. For her part, she presented a letter from the mayor of Elat and an invitation to visit Elat.

Mayor Abu-al-'Izz rejected the letter and the invitation and immediately informed the official quarters. He stressed that he will never send a letter or an invitation to the mayor of Elat.

Status of Secondary Boycott Firms To Be Studied

JN2501094494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 94 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has promised to closely study the status of U.S. firms subject to the secondary Arab boycott of Israel, but there will not be a blanket removal of companies from the so-called blacklist for the time being informed sources said Wednesday [19 January].

The sources, commenting on ongoing contacts between the Jordanian government and European and American governments seeking to end the secondeary boycott, said Jordan did not feel that the time is opportune to removing the secondary list altogether.

"Jordan has promised a case-by-case consideration of the companies involved on the basis of its own national interests and the interests of the company involved, but it will not extend a unilateral removal of the secondary boycott at this point in time, said one source.

The primary Arab boycott of Israel bans Arab dealings with Israeli companies as well as companies based elsewhere but owned partly or wholy by the government of Israel or Israeli nationals.

The secondary boycott applies to companies that deal with Israel or have investments in Israel or use Israeli components in their products.

The U.S. and several European countries have adopted legislation to punish companies complying with the requirements of the Arab Boycott of Israel Bureau.

In simpler terms, it means that any company providing a certificate that it is not Israeli-owned and its products do not include Israeli components and the ship carrying their products does not call at Israeli ports could face stiff fines. These documents are required by the Arab government enforcing the boycott, and consignments unaccompanied by these certifications could be denied entry altogether into their countries.

A lifting of the secondary boycott was one of the key themes of a recent visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Ron Brown, who held talks in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, the occupied territories and Egypt. [passage omitted]

U.S. Reaction to Golan Referendum Proposal Viewed

JN2001104094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jan 94 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Israeli Referendum is an Avoidance of Peace Requirements"]

[Text] In a step showing how much he opposes peace, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin hastened, after the positive results of the al-Asad-Clinton summit, to announce his decision to hold a public referendum on the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights should initial agreement be reached with Syria on this issue.

This is as if Yitzhaq Rabin is telling the Syrians ahead of time that any agreement that might be reached with them will ultimately be subject to this referendum novelty, which is unprecedented in Israel. This already cancels the issue of negotiating over the Golan or any other territory if the Israeli Government is not authorized to decide on withdrawal.

Indeed, what could Yitzhaq Rabin negotiate about with any of the Arab parties if the final say will be for the Israeli man on the street, whom we already know is inclined toward extremism and intransigence, and whom we now realize is obsessed with expansion after all the racism and racist grudge all Israelis have been raised on?

It was hoped the U.S. reaction would be in line with the Western democratic traditions which authorize the elected governments to make decisions based on the conventional parliamentary majority. However, statements by the new U.S. ambassador to Israel contradict this rule adopted by countries that champion democracy. He expressed the United States' support for Yitzhaq Rabin's new notion, which is a direct blow to all the agreements reached in Geneva just a few days ago.

The public referendum which Rabin is calling for is a new Israeli evasion of the requirements of the peace process. It also torpedoes the well known bases for negotiation. This is especially true as long as the Arabs are negotiating with a government that is giving up its authority to make decisions and is leaving agreements that could be reached up to the mood of the man on the street who could push an agreement one way or the other based on the personal whims of his leaders and through instigation and racist mobilization, all the effective tools which Israel owns.

U.S.-Jordanian Military Committee To Meet

JN2001100394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 Jan pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman—A joint Jordanian-American committee on military cooperation will meet in Washington next week for the first time since 1989, informed sources said Wednesday [19 January].

They said the committee, co-chaired by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Jordan and an assistant secretary of the U.S. Defence Department, will discuss a broad range of issues, including American military assistance programmes for the Kingdom, joint exercises and training for Jordanian servicemen.

Also discussed will be Jordan's military needs, including spare parts for American equipment already in use by the Kingdom's Armed Forces.

The sources noted that next week's meeting, which will follow talks between His Majesty King Husayn and President Bill Clinton at the White House on Friday, would be the first after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis strained Amman-Washington relations.

Prior to the crisis, the commission used to meet annually in Washington or in Amman to work out the year's cooperation programmes.

Jordan depended on the U.S. for all its defence needs for nearly 30 years until 1987, when Congress turned down a $1.6 billion arms package for the Kingdom, promoting Amman to turn to France and the Soviet Union to meet its requirement.

Washington maintained a minimum level of military assistance to Jordan throughout the years, including training programmes for Jordanian servicemen and joint military execises.

Following the Gulf war, the U.S. administration has released more than $35 million in military aid to Jordan after overcoming congressional hurdles related to Jordan's adherence to and enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq and overall Arab-Israeli peacemaking.

The strain in bilateral ties resulting from the Gulf crisis was gradually mended after mid-1992. King Husayn met with President Clinton at the White House in June 1993, sealing reconciliation.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who headed for Washington Tuesday to join the Jan. 21 White House meeting between the King and President Clinton, said that "Jordanian-American relations are continuously improving... after traces of the Gulf crisis were removed."

Dr. al-Majali said earlier that during the King's meeting with President Clinton he would raise the issue of American military assistance for Jordan.

No precise figures were immmediately available on U.S. military assistance. A State Department document dated July referred to $10 million in military aid for the fiscal year ending September 1993. It was not known whether this has been released.

Jordan and the United States have held at least three joint military exercises in the southern desert and the Red Sea since the end of the Gulf war over Kuwait in February 1991.

The meetings of the joint commission will be attended by senior officials from all branches of the U.S. defence establishment, including the army, navy and air force, as well as representatives of the Central Command.

General Joseph Hoar, head of the Central Command, was in Amman last week in what was described as a routine visit.

Gen Hoar, who succeeded Gen Norman Schwartzkopf after the war of Kuwait, has visited Jordan at least twice before and during joint American-Jordan military exercises.

U.S. Rabbinical Delegation Departs After Visit

JN2201131194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jan 94 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—An unprecedented American Rabbinical delegation left Jordan Friday [21 January] after visiting tourist sites and exchanging views with Jordanians in a mission billed as an expression of support for the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The tour group of 80 rabbis, including eight women, representing 1.5 million American Jews affiliated with 850 synagogues, was described by its spokespersons as totally different in orientation and ideology from their hardline counterparts in Israel.

Those who might have taken their cue from the images that appear on Israel television and expected to see a group of long-bearded men wearing religious garb, armed with prayer books and humming hymns under their breath were in for a surprise. Most of the group's members looked more like business executives than religious men.

The visit was not without its controversies either, Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman Khalifah, spiritual Leader of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, condemned the visit saying "this soil has not been stepped on by a jew since the time of Caliph 'Umar" in the eighth century.

"Our past experience has proved that Jews in the West plotted against Palestine," said Shaykh Khalifah, who also carries the title of the deputy secretary-general of the broader Muslim Brotherhood movement in the Arab World. The visit of the U.S. rabbinical team, he said, means a "plot against Jordan."

"This visit is not acceptable to us at all," he said in a statement.

Officials said the group was treated as a regular tour team with the only exception that extra security was provided to the delegation.

The group said its very visit to Jordan symbolised a yearning for coexistence and justice.

"We believe our very presence here is a story," said Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, executive director of American Reformist Zionist Association (ARZA) and the team's leader. "We are here to support the peace process, and we want it brought to a satisfactory, comprehensive, permanent settlement."

Rabbi Hirsch speaking in an interview at the Intercontinental Hotel where the team stayed, said the delegation's mission was to "listen, to learn and to convey our impressions to public opinion."

"We are not politicians and are not an official delegation," said Rabbi Hirsch.

But, he added, "We are not a general kind of group. It is historical for us. To my knowledge there was never this kind of a group coming to Jordan..."

He implied that the impressions that the Rabbis carried home from Jordan and elsewhere in the region would have a strong bearing on the views of their congregations.

By and large, according to delegation sources, a significant number of the group members supports the establishment of an independent Palestinian state while others believe that the shape of a Palestinian entity is better left to direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

"We have met with ordinary Jordanians in al-'Aqabah and in Petra, and also with academics here," said Rabbi Hirsch, in his mid-30s. "We are very grateful for the generous hospitality that the Jordanians are giving us...they are very warm and friendly people..."

The rabbi voiced confidence that the peace process would be successful. "We obviously know very well. There is a great excitement in the region, in particular in Jordan, and there is a conviction that there be mutual

social and economic benefits from a settlement. We would like to contibute to that process if we can, and that is why we are here."

He said the delegation was hoping to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, but the meeting did not materialise because of scheduling problems.

Rabbi Hirsch said the American Jewish community was in touch with Arab-American leaders in order to "establish the kind of communications that were not established before."

Asked how he viewed internal Israeli opposition led by hardline rabbis against the peace process. Mr. Hirsch said: "I am not a politician and that is not why we are here. We are here because we support the politicies of the current Israeli government... a territorial compromise in exchange for a comprehensive permanent settlement in the Middle East. We support that very, very strongly."

The tour group arrived in Israel early this week and proceeded to the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba, but a meeting with the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators there did not take place.

From Taba the group travelled to Nuwaybi' to catch the ferry to al-'Aqabah and then visited Petra.

The delegation visited Ma'daba and the nearby Mount Nebo Thursday. It crossed the King Husayn Bridge Friday morning.

Health Minister Protests Leniency to Lawbreakers

JN2101120994

[Editorial Report] Amman SHIHAN in Arabic, in its 22-28 January issue publishes on pages 8-9 an approximately 2,500-word interview with Jordanian Health Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Malhas, who says he has effectively resigned his post to protest the government's leniency toward "the pharmaceuticals mafia," and those "who allow them to break the law."

In the interview, the minister explains the violations committed by importers of foodstuffs and medicines and accuses them of importing material unfit for human consumption and low quality and "rotten" food. He also notes that these importers and merchants have strong connections and "money to buy people, newspapers, and everything else." He also hints at differences with the prime minister over the way to handle the dispute with the merchants and importers.

Crown Prince Calls For Probe

JN2501083494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, Monday called for the formation of a committee to investigate charges raised by Health Minister 'Abd al-Rahim Malhas, of violations of specifications and standards by pharmascists and food merchants. Prince Hasan thanked Dr. Malhas for raising the issue. He also noted that Jordanian pharmaceutical products enjoy good reputation abroad.

The Regent made the comments during a visit to al-Balqa' Governorate.

Islamic Front Leader Explains Position on Peace

JN2201123494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front in Jordan, by Salim Badawi; place and date not given; from the "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Farhan] In fact, our opposition to Israel is an opposition in principle. This is because we view Israel as a mob of invaders who came from various parts of the world to occupy a land that is not theirs and a homeland that is not theirs. It has been the homeland of Arabs and Muslims for 14 centuries. The Jews who existed in Palestine at the beginning of this century were a minority of no more than 5 percent. They have lived peacefully with the Arabs and Muslims for 14 centuries. In principle, we are not against Judaism as a religion nor against the Jews as a race. We are against a country being occupied by foreigners. Those invaders are new colonialists who were supported by Britain at the beginning of the century and by the United States in the middle of the century. Thus, the Zionist plan converged with the Western colonialist plan to colonize Palestine. Therefore, in principle, those are rejected people in our homeland.

[Badawi] So you are against any peaceful settlement in the region?

[Al-Farhan] It is not like that. We are constant advocates of peace, but not when our territory is occupied by force. Therefore, the real solution to the Palestine question is to allow the Jews who lived with us for 14 centuries to stay and to evacuate to their own countries the Jews who came as invaders from overseas and from over 70 countries in the world. Indigenous Jews and their children and the Christians and Muslims of Palestine would remain. The deported Palestinians, who are over 4 million—not only the 400 deportees who returned last year—should return to their country. Afterward, in a democratic way, if the West is really democratic, the Palestinians—Muslims, Christians, and Jews—should be left to determine their future so that they would have equal opportunities and would rule themselves by themselves.

[Badawi] Mr. Ishaq al-Farhan, in light of the results of the Jordanian elections on the domestic level and in light of the recent Geneva summit on the foreign level, do you not feel that your opposing stand is being isolated? How do you expect your activities to be affected?

[Al-Farhan] In fact, true democracy has room for both supporters and opponents. We are a political party operating under the Jordanian Political Parties Law and under the Jordanian Charter and Constitution, which adopt democracy and democratization which allow everybody to express their views no matter how different they may be. We are neither permanent rejectionists nor permanent supporters of the policy of any government. Our opposition or support depends on stands themselves. With respect to the Palestine question, we have our known stand, which is widely respected. At the same time, we do not resort to violence to impose our stands. Hence, we believe that we are being logical with ourselves, and that others must be logical with us. We do not have a problem here in Jordan with the regime in terms of agreement or disagreement. This is because we view matters in a practical and realistic manner. At the same time, we act according to our constant and deep-rooted policy. As for the regional or Western circles that want to plot against us, we hope that they will understand the democracy which they advocate, and leave us alone to resolve our problems by ourselves.

[Badawi] So, what is the strategy of your future opposition. In other words, what are you wagering on in the future to reverse the current peaceful, negotiatory trend?

[Al-Farhan] We believe that as long as an inch of Palestinian territory is under occupation, the Palestinian resistance inside the Palestinian territory will continue until the occupation is removed from the Islamic Arab territories, headed by Jerusalem. We believe that irrespective of the nature of the self-rule that the Palestinians will attain, they will avoid any civil wars or domestic disputes, especially if they adopt democracy and shura among themselves so that they would act in harmony with themselves and set a starting point for the building of their future state, which would be supported by the neighboring Arab countries, especially Jordan. We are wagering on the assumption that proceeding from their colonialist and expansionist logic, the Jews will try to impose their economic and political hegemony on the region. Thus, they will be hated in the region. After they failed to impose their military hegemony, they will not be able to achieve their political, economic, educational, and cultural objectives of a greater Israel in the region. We are also wagering on the balances of power. We have recently seen how the Russian power crumbled and how Russia became a thing of the past. Also, we believe that American and European public opinion will show more understanding of our issue, especially if we hold fast and explain this issue and continue to explain it for the next decade. Then, the world military, political, and ideological balances of power may change in our interest.

Two Leftist Parties Decide on Merger

JN2001120494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 Jan 94 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Excerpts] Amman—Two leftist political parties Wednesday [19 January] announced their decision to merge after months of negotiations between party cadres. The Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party (JDPUP) disclosed that their executive committees had agreed on a merger after a meeting late Tuesday.

In what was an expected move, the JPDP and JDPUP decided to begin their merger by creating a coordination committee for their respective executive committees.

"These have been long-standing plans and now we are beginning their implementation," said 'Azmi al-Khawajah, the secretary general of the JDPUP. "No one is quite sure how long it will take, but we are very serious about the merger.

The announcement follows months of negotiations between the two parties whose members ran on a joint six-person ticket for the November legislative elections. Only one of the joint-ticker candidates, Bassam Haddaddin of the JPDP, was successful in his bid for a seat in Parliament. Mr. Haddadin is a al-Karak deputy.

The two parties are Jordanian off-shoots of the Palestinian parties, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) respectively. [passage omitted]

For now the leadership post will rotate among 'Azmi al-Khawajah and JPDP Secretary General Taysir al-Zibri. The two parties hope that a timetable and framework will be worked out between the two groups by mid-February. [passage omitted]

Roundup of 24-25 Jan Clashes in Southern Region

SLA Positions Shelled

NC2401150194 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] According to our military correspondent, South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in al-Qantarah, al-Shumariyah, Sujud, and 'Arab Salim came under shell and rocket fire this afternoon from the terrorists' positions north of the border area. The SLA and Israeli forces retaliated, scoring direct hits on the sources of fire.

The Amal Movement admitted that terrorist Hasan 'Ali Amin 'Awwadi was killed today.

Israelis Shell Villages

NC2401185194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Violence broke out again in south Lebanon at 1630 today when Israeli forces directed a concentrated, fierce bombardment against villages and towns in the south. Our correspondent 'Ali Dawud has the details.

[Begin Dawud recording] The occupation forces have stirred up the security situation and increased their attacks. The occupation forces artillery shelled numerous villages in al-Nabatiyah and the central sector in the morning and in the afternoon. The shelling of al-Tamiriyah killed one citizen and inflicted extensive damage to houses and property.

The occupation forces escalated their attacks and artillery fire against southern villages at 1600 today. Shells fell in Zawtar al- Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Frun, and al- Ghanduriyah towns and on the suburbs of Kafr Rumman, Tulin, Majdal Silm, al-Sawwanah, Qabrikha, al-Tamiriyah, and Safad al-Battikh. These areas came under bombardment from various large-caliber and long-range guns and scores of shells landed on them this evening.

The fierce shelling coincided with helicopter flights over the al-Litani River basin. It was continuing at 1715.

Before noon today, the occupation forces' artillery stationed in al-Shumariyah and al-Zaffatah shelled the outskirts of Zawtar al- Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah towns and al-Litani River basin. Shelling in the morning and the afternoon covered Majdal Silm, al-Sawwanah, Qabrikha, Wadi al-Hujayr, Khirbat Silm, and Tulin. Citizen Hasan 'Ali Amin 'Awali was killed in al-Tamiriyah and many homes were damaged in the villages.

Bra'shit, Shaqra, and Majdal Silm towns and Wadi al-Saluqi came under bombardment this morning. The resistance men retaliated this afternoon by attacking the militia [South Lebanese Army] positions in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah and detonated an explosive charge under a Lahdist patrol on the road leading to these two positions.

The resistance men this morning attacked positions of the enemy and its agents in Bra'shit, Bayt Yahun, Saydun, and al-Suwayda'. Casualties among the personnel manning these posts were not known because the occupation forces' security cordon around the area. [end recording]

Israeli Unit Crosses Border Strip

NC2501102294 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Our correspondent in Rashayya reports that an armored Israeli unit consisting of a tank and 15 soldiers advanced 1 km north of the border strip from its positions on the hill of Kawkaba. The force raked the area of Qilya and Dallafah with heavy machine guns for one hour. No casualties have been reported.

Meanwhile, our correspondent in Tyre cited arrivals from the border strip that the Israeli forces reinforced their positions in the western and central sectors with artillery batteries, tanks, and personnel carriers. This followed the recent resistance operations against a number of joint Israeli-South Lebanese Army posts.

In a related development, Israeli warplanes flew over the western and central sectors today, breaking the sound barrier.

Amal Attacks 'Occupation Forces'

NC2501121494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] A group of the Lebanese Resistance Regiments—Amal carried out an attack against a position of the occupation forces on 'Ali al-Tahir hill, using automatic weapons and rockets. The attack lasted about 20 minutes. Fire was seen rising from the position.

Al-Hirawi, Birri Leave for Syria To Offer Condolences

NC2501102494 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Beirut at 1130 today for al-Qardahah [in Syria] to offer condolences to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of his son, Basil. The president, accompanied by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, left Beirut airport on a private plane.

Disagreements Reportedly Cause Discord in Hizballah

PM2501113094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jan 94 p 7

[Tariq Ibrahim report: "Disagreements and Rancors Among 'Masses' of Lebanese Hizballah; 'Iranian' Wing Contests Fadlallah 'Jurisprudence,' Political Independence"]

[Excerpts] Beirut—It is no longer a secret that the death of the supreme Shiite authority Mohammad Reza Golpayegani in December has provoked a direct confrontation between Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the Shiite cleric, and the Qom seminary in Iran. This crisis has affected the relationship between Fadlallah and Lebanese Hizballah, which is supported by Iran. The wing opposed to Fadlallah has succeeded in causing organized "confusion" among its followers and supporters, both in the southern suburb and Beirut. It seems that they have for some time time been preparing a "bill of indictment" against Fadlallah, pending Tehran's "verdict."

The indictment includes the following:

—His public assertion of the weakness of the historic Shiite story about the misdeed of Fatimah al-Zahra', daughter of the prophet (peace be upon him) and wife of 'Ali Bin-Abu-Talib, to Caliph 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab.

—His opposition to the possible takeover of the supreme authority position by 'Ali Khamene'i, guide of the Islamic revolution, when the current authority Mohammad 'Ali Araki dies.

It is said that a video was sent to Tehran, showing Fadlallah attacking Khamene'i.

The first accusation is considered a violation of the common Shiite belief, and the second has been exploited for political ends in order to place the accused in a direct confrontation with Khamene'i. [passage omitted]

The other aspect of this dispute is reflected in the context of talk of the need for the "Shiite scene" in Lebanon to remain separate from the religious leadership in Tehran. Maybe what Ja'farite Mufti in Lebanon Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan said on 10 December 1993, namely that "the Islamic republic [of Iran] is responsible for safeguarding the authority's affairs," is part of the bid to tighten the noose around Fadlallah's movements in Lebanon.

Fadlallah rejects this dark and tense picture of his relationship with Tehran. He attributes everything said about his differences with it to "people trying to fish in muddy water." He says that anyone who tries to raise such issues is trying to "foment sedition." He does not rule out that the "intelligence service" could be behind this. Actually both Fadlallah and the Iranian leadership are trying to reunite the scene. Fadlallah may admit the existence of an overt battle that is not in his favor with Iran. While others believe that Tehran cannot abandon its relationship with Fadlallah, who has a "distinctive" position at both the Islamic and Shiite levels. [passage omitted]

Clinton-al-Asad Meeting in Geneva Described

NC2501093694 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Jan 94 pp 1, 11

[Article by Talal Salman—quotation marks as published]

[Text] The watch is Swiss, the time is Arabic, and the era is American. The watch controls the dates and commits the two presidents from two different worlds and two different eras to succeed. Like enmity, failure does not need a summit meeting. It could lead to inability or to a lack of desire to reach the summit. Or perhaps it could lead to an attempt to unilaterally control the plain, the slope, the mountain, and the summit together.

At 1000 (Swiss time) of that depressing European Sunday, 16 January 1993, they stood at two of the three doors of the UN hall that had so often witnessed meetings between adversaries seeking an unavoidable agreement. U.S. President Bill Clinton stood at "his door" for a minute or two, awaiting his "partner" in the meeting, his eyes full of curiosity to finally see the "shrewd" man about whom he had heard and read a lot.

Who would make the first step and move toward the other? Formalities seem basic in some cases. However, the "symbol of change" in this "American century"—a term used by his predecessor George Bush, who won wars and lost the presidency—did not stop for long at this point of etiquette. When he started to walk, he noticed that the "shrewd" man was ahead of him in the first step toward the "third era" and the world of the common language. They moved forward with a bit of caution. They met, according to protocol, in the middle of the space, the middle of the hall, the middle of the road between reality and hope, between today and tomorrow in its assumed image. They shook hands, each one pressing the right hand of the other. The handshake took a long time, to enable those who could not see well to see and those who wanted to adjust the lenses of their cameras to photograph the event. They were also trying to break the ice of the first meeting between those coming to it from equal distances.

In matters of courtesy, the man from the "East" always excels. Thus, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad asked the first question that deviated from the prepared text. The question was about Clinton's long, multi-segmented journey to the world of the old enemy, namely the "socialist camp under the great Soviet Union."

This was the proper prelude to starting the "original" talk after the photographers, journalists, and the members of the two delegations had left, surrounded by multinational, multilingual, and multi-labelled security men and those whose curiosity overwhelmed their self-respect and who sought to see "that moment" even though they were not among the invitees.

On the two sides of the old wooden table in the big hall, only six men remained: the President, his secretary of state, his adviser for national security, and two interpreters in the background. [sentence as published]

From what point could the trip begin, and how could it end when its map had no points of reference?

From international to regional to bilateral topics and back again. It was as if the talk were taking place inside cylinders, where borders could not be drawn between topics that intertwine and intermix so that it was impossible to differentiate between topics on the basis of their priority. There was no "secondary" topic in such a meeting, the topic of which was the Arab-Israeli conflict. The region, which was Arab, will remain Arab even if its name is changed and the geographical term of the others is used instead of the identity of its Arab people. Such a name change is also used by those who have supposedly absolved themselves of this region and joined the future—the new world order.

There is no common ground, either in geography or in history. Where then would you put the other man; compare him to the color of your eyes or the darkness of your complexion?

The battle for existence is infinite. Peace is just another stop or a new page. But "the book" is too big to be summed up or abridged. It is harder still to write the ending.

The Arab region has no "localities;" it is at the core of the world. For centuries it was the heart of the world. It might not be its head anymore, but it still occupies its heart. It is "the small celestial body that contains the greater world in its folds."

How can the inheritor of the land of all religions, messages, and prophets forget its name, descent, and the heritage the earth has kept: Is there a single location, city, mountain, or river that has not forced itself into one of the three holy books and taken a place of prominence?

Where does Washington stand compared to Damascus, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Mecca, Medina, or Baghdad? That is, if we forget Tyre, Sidon, Jubayl, Ugarit, Ra's Shamrah, and Babylon and Nineveh and Thebes before them or with them.

We have to admit that the Arab region is no longer "the world" or the "center of the world." However, we cannot forget that throughout its history it was the heart of the world, the ambition of the world, or the one-way road between "the center" and the world. Not only did it give the world its three holy religions, but it also made some of its empires, many of its civilizations, and the memories that the computer is now swallowing and almost wiping out.

But the world cannot live without memories, particularly in a region blazing with a conflict, most of whose roots go back, whether truly or falsely, in history. The old religious legend is being employed in the service of the newly made political interests.

Had Bill Clinton been "an ordinary American," Hafiz al-Asad's task would have been much harder: What is the common ground between a born "politician" and "ideologist"—in whose memory history lies, provides his dreams and hopes, and controls much of the shape, objectives, and slogans of his policies—and that smart-looking young American man who is fond of playing the saxophone?

But Bill Clinton is a graduate of Oxford. Europe inherited the world from the Arabs through the Turks. In Europe in the 1970's, Clinton became "a politician" and was infected with the germ of history. Politics lies in history; it begins and ends in history and, drawing strength from it, rejuvenates both itself and history.

How seemingly far apart are these two men, who sit opposite each other now to reach an agreement? Each comes from a past so different from the other that they contradict. One was forced to take up war as a profession to protect his land, people, and role, while the other resisted war and demonstrated against it to attain similar goals in his country.

The war veteran is now facing the former fighter against war.

The first fought for survival and the second fought against war to survive.

The first went to wars that were imposed on him many times and where he had no choice in the matter, except once, and no freedom to specify the place, time, or weapons used, even though other parties controlled the results of these wars in anticipation of another unjust war that was going to be imposed on him.

The second one took it upon himself to prevent an unjust war his country was waging against others under the pretext of national security and providing progress and security for humanity. The results of this war backfired. Now, from his position as president, he is trying to present an image of the beautiful American as an alternative to the disgusting picture of the ugly American that has mobilized all peoples against the strong heir—teeming with righteousness and potential—of the old and worn out colonizer who has retired and become obsolete.

The wound does not need any rhetoric, but the wounded man is not silent. He voices his pain. Thus, President al-Asad did not disappoint Clinton's expectations. He had to review the bloody chapters of the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also paused a long time before the bitter experiences of the attempt to re-establish an equal relationship with the United States throughout the past quarter of a century.

He had to say everything all at once. He had to review the nature of the struggle and its history, while concentrating on and always reiterating the role this conflict has had in the relationship of the Arabs with the West in general, and the United States in particular. However, at certain times, he had to speak in professorial tones and to explain and recount the facts in great detail while relying heavily on many things he had heard from Clinton's predecessors, Nixon, Carter, and Bush (with talk in the third person about Ronald Reagan, whom he did not know personally, although he knew a great deal about him and heard from him expressions conveyed by a series of envoys—expressions that neither please nor ease the mind).

Clinton learned from al-Asad what he did not know and what he did not intend to happen. This is why he not only asked not to be judged according to the mistakes of other U.S. officials, in particular Henry Kissinger, Philip Habib, George Schultz, and before him Alexander Haig. He admitted publicly that "he learned and understood the meaning of peace as President al-Asad wants it." He began to understand the sensitivity in the relations between the Arabs, who have entered the struggle with Israel, and Israel, regardless of the political differences between their regimes which create borders between their "states" and "public" stances.

[Al-Asad] "I make no distinction between the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, and between the occupied parts of Palestine or Jordan. The issue is not like a man who has preferences, and prefers one of his many wives over the others. To me, it is one Arab land and no part of it is more valuable than the other. What I demand for one part, I demand for all parts. This is essential. It is all one territory for one nation. This fact reveals the secret behind the inability of unilateral solutions or peace treaties to terminate the historic struggle between the Israelis and the Arabs. This is why we insist on just, comprehensive, and permanent peace. Peace is not peace unless it is comprehensive. Before you, there have been three experiments that did not succeed in making peace and did not end the struggle: Camp David 1978 with Egypt under al-Sadat; 17 May 1983 with Lebanon under Amin al-Jumayyil; and the Gaza-Jericho agreement with Yasir 'Arafat on 13 September 1993.

"This is enough to show that separate solutions, no matter how many there are, cannot make peace. It could be in Israel's interest to exploit moments of weakness by some Arab officials to grab their signatures on agreements that might never see the light of day. But what interest does a great country like yours have in being biased and being a party to this conflict, knowing that this would make your country lose its role as an international authority, honest broker, and a full partner in the making of peace?

"It would not be peace if it were imposed through coercion and force. It would only be a humiliating agreement if it is dictated by an occupier who is proud of his victory which cannot last forever. Likewise, the defeat of the vanquished cannot last forever, particularly since he is the owner of the land. He was born on this land and was not brought to it from abroad. His connection with this land is permanent and firm. He does not forget this land and he will never be forgotten by it. It

belongs to him and he belongs to it. There is no other alternative. He was not brought to this land from another history or from other places. He was born on this land and he will continue to adhere to it. He got his name from his land and the land got its name from the Arabs."

Perhaps this prompted Clinton to say in his statement and then in his answers to the numerous journalists' questions that he "had learned from President al-Asad." He humbly backed down on the old "golden" description of the Jericho agreement, which is only "a first step for laying the foundation for solving the problem."

Therefore, it is not possible to have separate solutions or to use the Gaza-Jericho accord as if it were the happy ending of a movie with many actors and full of battlefields like the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It was the conflict that opened the road for the Soviet Union. Washington was the hope, but it withdrew from its role. The Soviets seized the opportunity and departed from their position, which initially supported the creation of Israel, and drew closer to the Arabs to the extent of participating with them in confronting the alliance that had been forged between Tel Aviv, which believes in the Torah, and secular Washington, which defends democracy and human rights.

Realizing this fact must yield fruits so that it will be possible to establish new relations between Syria's al-Asad and the United States in "the new era," the era of changes and a quest for certainty, the era of the one power and its new world order, the era of Bill Clinton.

But rectification is necessary to avoid the recurrence of the historical mistakes:

"We want to have good relations with you. But this cannot be started if the desire and decision is made by one side. Such good relations can only be made by a joint decision from the two sides. We do not try to sell to you or buy from you a used car that becomes idle and obstinate rather than moving forward. We want good relations that are not governed by accusations over suspicions, or by those who want our misunderstandings to continue to influence your decision. Accusing us of sponsoring terrorism and putting our name on the list of terrorist states is only an attempt to terrorize you and govern your foreign relations. We are absolutely not your enemies, and we want you not to look at us as your enemies. Our behavior toward you has been governed by our reaction to the decisions made by your previous administrations.

"As much as the Americans are optimistic about your commitment to change, we hope that the change will include your stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict in general, and on us in particular. You seek peace, which is what we demand. Anyone who has suffered the bitterness of war and the agony of sacrifice appreciates the value of peace, but peace requires two parties.

We went to Madrid with your guarantee and under your sponsorship, together with the Soviets who later became Russians, with the hope that the Israelis would respond to this call for the peace of the brave. But peace did not materialize and Shamir tried to wreck the process by adopting extremism, which undermined the conference. Here Rabin is trying to abort the attempt to establish a comprehensive and just peace by luring the PLO leadership into a vague agreement, which, in our view, compromises and stalls the peace process. A sound solution cannot be achieved in secret with the exclusion and at the expense of other parties.

There can be no peace in Palestine or peace for the Israelis if Israelis continue to occupy part of Syrian national soil, part of Lebanese national soil, and part of Jordanian national soil, not to mention the Palestinian land they occupy.

"The role of the United States as a full partner and impartial mediator is fundamental and dominant, but a separate agreement annuls this role. You ascertained by yourselves that the dazzling ceremony, in which everyone was requested to participate, does not end a conflict that filled pages in the past and does not guarantee a future that provides new generations with hope for a better tomorrow.

"What is the problem between Syria and you? "We often hear the Americans talk about the links of Arabs, in general, and Syria, in particular, to terrorism or to terrorist groups. Who said the work to liberate the occupied land can be called terrorism? If this were true, the American Revolution could be regarded as terrorism. Didn't you fight those you considered occupiers and colonialists? Were George Washington and his comrades terrorists?

"Frankly, we can say that much of our behavior was a reaction. We suffered occupation and aggression and our dignity was humiliated, and we reacted. Why then should the cause be ignored and the outcome be put on trial?

"Do you want the peace process to succeed? Peace is our demand but are the Israelis ready? You know the answer better than we do. What we know and feel and what is happening on the ground is not reassuring. Your role is necessary as a guarantee for us and for them. You must assert your commitment to this role, which made us go to Madrid. We then were surprised by the Israelis carving their way to Oslo behind our backs. But where is Washington?

There is nothing wrong with citing incidents from personal history to deduce points that could strengthen the principled stand.

It is an opportunity to drop that accusation that has stuck to the name and almost become a part of it.

"I believe we can reach some agreement on defining and describing terrorism. Your starting point at the summit

stems from your known position on the Vietnam war. You rejected 'military service' and dodged the draft. You then marched in demonstrations against the U.S. role in Vietnam. You reached the climax in defying your government and traveled to Moscow, the capital of the evil empire, as it was called later by U.S. President Ronald Reagan. In Moscow, you publicized your position with no thought as to the repercussions.

It is a glorious position and you deserve to be saluted for it.

However, let me ask you the following: Did you, at that time, consider the Vietcong fighters terrorists? Not at all. You used to view what the U.S. Army was doing as an unjust war, if we wish to avoid the word terrorism.

"By the same logic, how could the Palestinian youth fighting against the Israeli occupation army to liberate his land be described as a terrorist? He is a fighter and not a terrorist. Who has the guts to accuse the youth who is fighting the Israeli occupier to defend his house and life in southern Lebanon, whether he belongs to Hizballah or any other Lebanese resistance organizations, of being a terrorist. Whoever resists the occupier in his land, whether Syrian or Jordanian, is a fighter against terrorism and cannot be categorized as a terrorist. Whoever helps these people cannot accept being accused of harboring terrorism. In fact, we need to raise the question why international legitimacy and the superpowers, who have a special responsibility toward peace in the world, do not intervene to stop the oppressors in their tracks.

"We are victims of terrorism, and it is natural for victims to unite so long as the terrorism of the strong continues."

It is not important whether the young President was convinced or not. What is important is to pinpoint the situation and present the real picture.

In one of his answers to questions by journalists after the meeting, the young President referred to the issue that was a point of dispute. He said discussions over this issue lasted about an hour "without our attempting to solve it now." Thus, they left this issue up to the deliberations of the joint committee that was formed comprising the foreign ministers of the two countries, as part of other issues that need to be looked into and agreed upon. Otherwise, each side would have to accept the stand of the other without blackmail, sanctions, or international slander.

Authorization with regard to the Lebanese issue is absolute on both the official and realistic levels. However, Hafiz al-Asad is accurate and reserved in his use of this direct authorization. National logic helps here as in any other proposed topic. Facts, in their entirety, are results of the original struggle, including Resolution 425. This is why he listed it directly after the other two—Resolutions 242 and 338—which have to do with the Israeli occupation of other Arab territories. He linked them all to the land-for-peace and Madrid formulas to reach an acceptable settlement.

The strength of the presentation by President al-Asad was apparent in the conclusion the U.S. President reached after he made a naive response to a question about Lebanon. Clinton cut short his response to another question and said that one of his aides had drawn his attention to the ambiguity of his response to a previous question on Lebanon, a response that could have insulted the Syrian president. He then went on to explain that response.

The subject of Lebanon was prominent in the talks, it was discussed as a full party in the peace process and as a state with sovereignty, independence, and a political formula, which was developed during the al-Ta'if conference. The subject of Lebanon was prominent when they discussed the resistance and a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace.

President al-Asad introduced the subject of Lebanon by explaining the nature of the relations between the "one people in two states" and how they share a joint fate, which is apparent in the Brotherhood, Coordination, and Cooperation Treaty. This is a treaty that ensures the joint interests and benefits of the two countries through their two "states." It does not have anything to do with emotions or the desire to impose hegemony and control.

The subject of Lebanon had to be prominent when the discussion turned to the "fiery introduction" to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, namely Israel's "invasion with fire" waged against south Lebanon. Later on it was learned that this invasion was carried out to divert attention from what was happening in Washington.

That was an excellent opportunity to confirm that anything but a unilateral solution would be at the expense of the other parties in the struggle. The results of this struggle have affected everyone and everyone needs to participate in formulating an acceptable political settlement.

Note: Before the joint news conference, U.S. Ambassador to Damascus Christopher Ross approached me and inspected the journalists' identity card pinned on my chest. The card informed everyone that I was a member of the Syrian delegation. He read my name in a tone of someone who had just discovered a military secret. He then tried to play down the whole issue with a personal joke, but my answer was natural: But your president is in there talking about all of Lebanon, present and future, with President al-Asad.

The veteran diplomat said: Do not misunderstand me. I am not protesting. I am merely trying to link the concept to the actual picture.

During the news conference, and after the numerous references in the U.S. President's answers to Lebanon

and Syria's role there—in fact, his references to Syria's key role in the region and its peace—I turned around looking for Ambassador Ross. He met my eye with a wide smile and a nod of the head indicating agreement on what we had not disagreed about in the first place.

President al-Asad did not waste the opportunity. Washington is an essential party and the objective is to receive guarantees that its President is unbiased. There are no delusions that Clinton will be biased toward us. The important thing is for Arab logic to be heard fully, clearly, frankly, and directly. The important thing is for us to shake his former confidence and to force him to search for a balance that clears him from absolute bias toward Israeli logic, which imposes its hegemony on the area around it.

It is Hafiz al-Asad's school of political strategy. You should know the person you are talking to very well and let him know you. In order to let him to know you, it is not wrong for you to explain your stance using history, personal accounts, experiences of others, and your experiences with others.

Hafiz al-Asad knows how to present himself; not as a master but as a highly experienced adviser. He managed to use language that a man like Bill Clinton understands. The impact was clear from the young president's conduct and statements when both men addressed journalists. Clinton used phrases that he had just heard from the "wise man" who extended a hand of friendship from the world's oldest capital.

Bill Clinton is preparing himself to be the image of the future: He is handsome, tall, young, and has a vision and an ambition to make history. And history's widest door is in the east, and the strongest and most prominent man holding the keys to the east is Hafiz al-Asad, the man with whom the U.S. President sat for four hours and 20 minutes and still wanted more. They sat again for an hour or more, upsetting the travel schedule and increasing tension in the worried city of Tel Aviv.

Bill Clinton was an embodiment of the new land. But, he found out that his interlocutor is not in the past, he is in the present. The Israelis cannot be in the past, present, and future at the same time.

No one, alone, can be the world.

Hafiz al-Asad succeeded in bringing Damascus closer to Washington and vice versa, and in making Clinton's ambition the driving force in the peace talks with Israel. He removed most of the mines on the road between the two capitals and wrested recognition of his decisive future role. He is not like the others, and none of those who signed or were invited to sign tomorrow is like him. He is the closest to the image of the true "Arab." Leaning on this strong position, he speaks, changes contexts, and helps set priorities straight.

From now on, it is going to be Clinton's battle with the Israelis. The battle actually started in the plane that flew Clinton back to Washington, as we were told by some White House journalists. But the actual battleground will be in Israel itself. What happened in Geneva is too serious for Israel to accept and too solid for it to reject or cancel.

The next few days will show the seriousness of what happened in the too quiet Swiss city. Geneva's history may record that the city witnessed the most important step on the road toward a settlement of the long, bloody conflict between the Arabs and the Israelis, and that Hafiz al-Asad succeeded in shaking Israel's constants, which had overwhelmed Bill Clinton's memory and had guided his political movement.

This is another long and bitter battle, but it is not "against" the Israelis and Americans at the same time. It is being launched to clarify the border between the two so that peace can be established in the "taboo land," which might have room for the Arabs in the future.

When my Syrian colleagues at the press conference gave me the opportunity to ask my question, which was filled with criticism of the U.S. President, I knew that I would not get a serious answer. But the important thing was to pose the question:

"The United States says that it supports a comprehensive solution and a just peace. But its policy on the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been at times ambiguous and almost biased. It has sponsored and is sponsoring all the unilateral agreements, the last of which was the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which you personally sponsored at an international celebration held at the White House.

"Before that, there was the bitter experience of Lebanon in the 17 May (1983) agreement.

"The United States used force in the war against Iraq but has refrained from extending enough support for the international resolutions that concern the Arabs, including Resolution 425 on the Israeli occupation of some Lebanese territories, the resolution on the [Palestinian] deportees, and all the other resolutions on Palestine.

"In light of the summit talks, how can you explain all this?"

President Clinton overlooked the substance of the question and was content with a general and ambiguous answer. But his answer included a clear signal, when he said: "I believe that all the parties in this process recognize that peace cannot be achieved unless we can bring all the tracks together and make them successful. President al-Asad spoke very skillfully today during our meeting. He spoke about the situation in Lebanon and Jordan. He said that even if the problems with Israel are resolved separately, this should still be part of a comprehensive solution and all the problems between Israel and its neighbors—Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria—must be solved."

Of course, I was not expecting Clinton to criticize the overall U.S. policy toward the Arabs or to point out the fact that the U.S. Administration has double standards when it comes to justice and to the implementation of international resolutions and that it does not always fulfill its pledges.

I thank those in Geneva who gave me some of their time (since each press delegation could only ask three questions). I also thank those in Beirut who have said that we do not belong to Lebanon and that our media do not belong to the Arabs with Syria at their heart.

Belgian Foreign Trade Minister Arrives on Visit

JN2501085994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Robert Urbain, Belgian foreign trade and European affairs minister, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus yesterday on a visit to Syria lasting several days. The visit is in response to an invitation by the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade.

The Belgian minister was received at Damascus International Airport by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, the Belgian ambassador, and Embassy staff in Damascus.

In a statement to SANA, the Belgian minister said: I will offer the Belgian Government's condolences to President Hafiz al-Asad and his family over the painful loss of his son Basil al-Asad. I thank the Syrian Government for the warm reception despite the prevailing grief in Syria over the loss of President Hafiz al-Asad's son.

Urbain Offers Condolences, Holds Talks

JN2501142994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] At 1000 today, Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received Mr. Robert Urbain, Belgium's minister of foreign trade, and his delegation. The Belgian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. At the outset of the session, Mr. Urbain extended sympathies on behalf of himself and the Belgian Government to the bereaved President Hafiz al-Asad and his dignified family and the Syrian people and government. He thanked the Syrian Government for letting his visit go ahead, despite the mourning the country is observing over the death of the president's son, the golden knight, Staff Major Basil al-Asad. Dr. Salim Yasin thanked him for his sympathies.

The two sides then discussed bilateral trade and relations between Syria and the EC in general, and explored avenues to diversify and strengthen these ties. They agreed on a number of measures to boost cooperation between Syria and Belgium and the EC nations.

Afghanistan

Current Military, Political Situation Explained

NC2201170194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Jan 94

[Text] Kabul, 22 Jan (MENA)—Mohammad Yunus Qanooni, head of the Afghan Defense Ministry's Political Department, has announced that the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] leader 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf is making earnest efforts to conclude a peace agreement between President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his opponent Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and establish a cease-fire in the country.

In a statement to MENA's Kabul correspondent, Qanooni said that President Rabbani has no objection to starting discussions with Hekmatyar to resolve their dispute and that he is also willing to begin immediately forming election committees for elections to be held in six months.

The Afghan official described Hekmatyar's demand that the president resign as "unacceptable and part of the political maneuvering that Hekmatyar uses whenever he finds himself in a weak position."

Qanooni added: We have become accustomed to such maneuvers. Formerly Hekmatyar demanded the resignation of Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud as a condition for solving all disputes with President Rabbani. President Rabbani was appointed by the Shura Council.

Qanooni pointed out that Hekmatyar cannot set conditions, because he cannot achieve a military victory.

The head of the Afghan Defense Ministry's Political Department said that President Rabbani will not accept any good offices to reach a cease-fire with the forces of the communist General Abdol Rashid Dostam who is considered a remnant of the former soviet rule of Afghanistan.

Qanooni added that the call to jihad which the Afghan president made against Dostam and which was responded to by all the country's mojahedin and ulema "must be implemented and cannot be retracted."

Asked about the results of the military clashes between the president's forces—which include the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the forces of Isma'il Khan, and the Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] forces—on the one side and Dostam's forces on the other, Qanooni said that Dostam has lost more than 75 percent of his positions inside and around Kabul. Additionally 250 of his troops were killed and 960 captured.

He pointed out that the success of President Rabbani's forces in capturing the Microryan area and purging it of Dostam's forces had made it possible for them also to capture Mirwajan Hill and Bala Hesar. He explained that these two positions were Dostam's last two positions around Kabul.

Asked to comment on international and regional attitudes to the current events in Afghanistan, Qanooni said that according to his own information, Moscow was seeking to replace the country's Islamic system with a regime loyal to it. At the same time, several regional powers believe that Hekmatyar was the most suitable person to help them attain their objectives in Afghanistan.

He added that Hekmatyar realized after the battles of Tagab and Sorubi that he would not be able to face President Rabbani's forces alone and therefore he sought an alliance with the communist General Abdol Rashid Dostam.

The head of the Afghan Defense Ministry's Political Department noted that the Western countries had adopted a wait-and-see attitude awaiting the consequences of Hekmatyar's and Dostam's "coup attempt". He pointed out, however, that they realized after one day of fighting at the beginning of the year that President Rabbani's regime was not an easy target.

On the current situation, Mohammad Yunus Qanooni said that President Rabbani's forces have evident superiority in Kabul, the areas surrounding it, and in northern Afghanistan.

Iranian Ambassador Discusses Peace Efforts

LD2401173094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent today, Mr. Haddadi, the Iranian ambassador in Kabul, described Iran's efforts to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan and entente cordiale between the warring groups in Kabul.

Describing the situation in Kabul as deplorable he said: Most foreign embassies have ceased their diplomatic activities in Kabul and government offices have stopped working. He added: Hospitals in Kabul are full of the injured from recent clashes and treatment centers are facing shortages of medicines and medical facilities.

Referring to the activities of our country's embassy in Kabul to establish peace in Afghanistan he said: So far direct talks have been held with the president, prime minister, and other leaders of Afghan mojahedin groups, on several occasions. The 24-hour cease-fire in Kabul, and the evacuation of diplomats and people from the city are the results of those efforts.

Declaring Iran's preparedness to continue peace-seeking efforts in Kabul he said: A committee, under the auspices of the Iranian embassy in Kabul, is to review the existing disputes between the warring groups. So far the

Afghan president has declared his readiness in that respect. Talks are to be held with the prime minister and other Afghan leaders.

Peshawar Sources Say Rabbani Forces Fire Scuds

BK2301090594 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 23 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] The fiercest war in and around Kabul entered 22nd day on Saturday [22 Jan] when rival Afghan parties continued attacking each other's positions with air and ground powers.

The Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] sources in Peshawar said that two Scuds were fired by Rabbani forces at Zakhira (dump), a civilian populated area between Charasyab and Logar. This place had been used by the Red Army and the Moscow-installed regimes in Kabul for dumping and storing oil for military purposes.

Meanwhile,the Hezb-e Eslami chief, Golboddin Hekmatyar told THE FRONTIER POST on telephone from his strong-hold at Charasyab that his rivals had not so far been able to target his military installations in and around Kabul.

He said that the Rabbani-Mas'ud forces were using Shindand base for serial attacks on his positions. He claimed that the Friday [21 Jan] serial bombings by the Rabbani forces on his strong-hold at Charasyab was not affective. He said that the radio and television being run by his party were operative as usual.

A newscaster of Hezb radio and television, Ahmed Shah lost his life when a rocket hit the building, housing the Hekmatyar's own electronic media system.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that three planes of Gen. Dostam, who is commonly known among the Hezb circles as Haji Dostam, landed at the Charasyab air base on Saturday. It is believed that the planes brought food and other essentials from Mazar-e Sharif.

The forces of Gen, Dostam are stationed near Shah Shaheed street and Bala Hisar fort. Both these places are close to the Charasyab.

The Hezb sources said that the oil supply to Kabul from Pakistan was continuing. The Afghan planes are seen at Peshawar airport everyday, the sources added.

According to independent sources the commander Shura met at Pul-e-Charkhi again on Saturday at the residence of Mullah Saddiq to bring a peace formula acceptable to the both parties. Meanwhile, it is learnt that the Hezb-e Eslami has asked all the Afghan banks in Pakistan and elsewhere not to entertain the orders of the Rabbani government. "The money in Afghan banks is not the personal property of Rabbani", said a directive issued by the Hezb to the Afghan bank managers.

Hezb sources also said that they were giving tough time to the Rabbani forces in and around Kabul. The sources rejected the government's claim that it had captured the old Microryan.

The Afghan embassy spokesman in Islamabad said on Saturday that 22 fighters of Hezb were killed on Friday when the Rabbani forces attacked Charasyab. The Hezb sources, however, rejected the claim.

The forces of Gen. Dostam killed 65 fighters of Mas'ud at Microryan on Friday during hand-to-hand fighting, the Hezb source said in Peshawar.

Afghan factions fought with rockets and artillery in the capital Kabul on Saturday, scuppering a ceasefire attempt by a group of guerrilla commanders, reports Reuter quoting Afghan sources.

Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami party, part of a rebel coordination council, blamed forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani for the failure of the ceasefire proposed by a council of Afghan commanders.

"The coordination council was keeping peace on Saturday in response to the commanders' council appeal before the other side floured it by rocketing a Hezb-e Eslami base near Charasyab, a Hezb spokesman said in Peshawar.

India

Islamabad Receives 6 Proposals To Settle Issues

BK2401161294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] New Delhi has sent six proposals to Pakistan to resolve bilateral issues. Quoting official sources, PTI says the proposals include steps to resolve the Siachen problem, demarcation of boundary in the Sir Creek area, and the Tulbul navigation project controversy. The agency said the proposals which were handed over by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, to the Pakistan high commissioner, Mr. Riaz Khokhar, in New Delhi today also envisage confidence building measures on the nuclear issue and stabilizing the situation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. The proposals are a follow up of the foreign secretary-level talks held in the first week of this month.

Police Official Views Clinton Letter on Punjab

BK2501032494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] A government official of the United States has denied that President Bill Clinton's letter to congressmen on Punjab contained anything anti-India or it encouraged secessionist elements in the country. He said in Washington yesterday that the President in his letter had pointed out that the situation has improved in Punjab. He said the President has also mentioned that

there were regional elections and restoration of local governments, while the level of violence in the state has declined.

The director general of Punjab police, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, has said that President Clinton's remarks on Punjab were an outcome of wrong information said by the strong anti-Sikh [as heard] lobby in the States. He told newsmen in Bombay yesterday that the Punjab Police have been successful in controlling the militancy in the state.

Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Issues Reviewed

Revision of 'Discriminatory' NPT Stressed

BK2201120294 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Jan 94

[Commentary by journalist J.L. Kaul]

[Text] India has welcomed the major aspects of the January 14th Moscow Declaration on nuclear nonproliferation as broadly what India has been advocating. India considers any step, big or small, aimed at general and complete disarmament to end all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, as a positive development. It has, however, refrained from signing the present Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as New Delhi considers it to be discriminatory. The treaty in effect tackles only the countries without nuclear weapons and not those in the nuclear club. The treaty virtually seeks to legitimize and perpetuate the retention of nuclear weapons in the hands of a few countries.

India's stress on general and complete elimination of nuclear stockpiles stems from its ethos. The land of Lord Mahavir and Lord Buddha has always believed in peace and tranquility and in avoiding the path of confrontation. During recent past, India achieved the distinction of having won its freedom through nonviolence. The world now stands at a threshold so far as stock piling of nuclear weapons is concerned. Even if there is no direct confrontation, the mere presence of these stockpiles poses immense threat to the security of mankind. World public opinion by and large has been in favor of complete elimination of such weapons and a ban on their further production.

Outside the arena of international politics, there are eminent personalities who have hailed India's demand for complete elimination of nuclear weapons and its refusal to sign the discriminatory NPT. Dr. Thanat Khoman, internationally known jurist and diplomat and Thailand's former deputy prime minister and founder member of ASEAN, said in New Delhi in last November that India did the right thing in not signing the discriminatory NPT. The London-based leader of Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Mr. Bruce Kent, at the end of his two-week tour of India a couple of days ago said that nuclear powers do not have a right, moral or otherwise, to preach nonproliferation to the rest of the world. He said the NPT itself is not just about nonproliferation, but about disarmament as a whole and it has been made to look as if the whole issue is only about stopping non-nuclear states from crossing the nuclear threshold. The CND leader added that the nuclear powers have won pretty little to fulfill their own NPT obligations of shedding their own nuclear arsenals. The ground reality also points to this direction.

Far from eliminating their nuclear arsenals, the latest and the 39th explosion conducted by China on the fifth of October 1993 has belied the hopes of even a nuclear test moratorium. The discriminatory nature of the current NPT is also clear from the fact that whereas the United States showed tremendous concern about Iraq's nuclear capability because it posed a threat to Israel, the same concern has not been shown about Pakistan's nuclear program because it is aimed at India. On the contrary, it is widely believed that Pakistan's nuclear capability was actually built somewhat within the knowledge of Washington.

Keeping the discriminatory nature of the present NPT in view, India has affirmed the need to alter the treaty on non-discriminatory basis. The NPT review conference is to be held next year and India has not accepted the suggestion that the treaty should be extended indefinitely and unconditionally in its present form. Public opinion, even in Western countries too, is (?gearing) round to a recognition that attempts should be made to dispense with nuclear weapons. There is now a growing realization in America too that the arms race made the United States the world biggest debtor. Both Germany and Japan have also started to question the discriminatory nature of the NPT. Japan has been the only country to have suffered the consequences of a nuclear attack and India in keeping with its commitment to general disarmament has urged Japan to take advantage of the opportunity next year at NPT review conference for removing its discriminatory nature. India has also asked Japan to join India in its initiative at the UN for a convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons as necessary first step for the elimination and prevention of nuclear war. Efforts at nongovernmental level aimed at complete disarmament and a comprehensive test ban are also going apace. Former U.S. Defense Secretary Mr. Robert McNamara, has revealed in Bangalore recently that Indian and American experts have agreed to an action plan to work for freeing the world from nuclear arsenals.

Declaration Considered 'Anti-India Move'

BK2301141294 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Pressures Again"]

[Text] The Clinton-Yeltsin declaration from Moscow calling upon India and Pakistan to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and join a multilateral forum to make South Asia nuclear-free is a sinister anti-India move. Getting Mr. Yeltsin to line up with Washington is no big achievement for Mr. Clinton.

Moscow showed its eagerness to join the United States and other members of the Nuclear Club to force India and Pakistan to sign the NPT or a regional treaty even during the Republican regime in Washington. American support is so vital for Mr. Clinton to survive politically even in his own country that his international views will be suspect, especially in India which has experienced his ability to go back on a contract (on cryogenic rocket engine technology), a feat unusual for the President of a great country like Russia. The Russian concurrence with the US on forcing India to give up its nuclear and missiles programmes should not be taken as an irrepressible pacifist urge. Its logic is to kowtow to the US, and its net impact is to endorse the American approach of being even-handed towards India and Pakistan. This, in practice, has been a smokescreen for pursuing a policy of not to let India grow in power. Even before the Moscow declaration, it had been the consistent Western policy to magnify the threat of Pakistan's nuclear capability which, as the world knows, was developed within reasonable knowledge of Washington. It is pertinent to ask: Did the US show an intemperate concern about Iraq's nuclear capability because it posed a threat to Israel, and did not show a comparable anxiety at Pakistan's nuclear programme because it was aimed at India, and not Tel Aviv? Pakistan has declared on several occasions that it would sign the NPT only if India did so. This country-specific approach does not worry the US, but Larry Pressler's country-specific law for a nuclear Pakistan causes great unease in the State Department.

Washington's partisan approach on nuclear and missile issues is likely to raise complex bilateral questions between New Delhi and Washington. By getting Mr. Yeltsin's consent, Mr. Clinton may have formally mobilised additional international support for non-proliferation, but it need not necessarily force India's hands. The time has come for India to tell the US that it is prepared to discuss the nuclear question, but unencumbered by what Pakistan did or did not do in the matter. In fact, the US must learn how to deal with India without the Pakistan factor for any reasonable success in achieving a convergence of views on key issues. On the question of NPT, the crucial question is discrimination. Neither the US nor others in the Nuclear Club show an inclination to address this matter. Without doing so, the charge of intransigence against India is so much of nonsense. If a government in New Delhi were to succumb to pressure and sign the NPT against national consensus, its continuance would be in jeopardy under an onslaught of ultranationalist forces. It will be unfortunate if this were to happen.

Defense Ministry Comments on Fighter Project

BK2101162794 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 13 Jan 94 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, 13 Jan—Dr. Abdul Kalam, scientific adviser to the Defense Ministry, has said the refusal of Western countries to provide us with ultramodern technical know-how is a major challenge. Besides, he said, we will be able to manufacture the ultramodern Light Combat Aircraft [LCA] within the next two years. He also said the Defense Research Division is eager to undertake research on modern technical know-how and surpass the obstacles erected by Western countries. Dr. Abdul Kalam, known as the father of Indian missile technology, is a great expert.

A conference of dignitaries from various Defense Ministry research divisions was held in New Delhi. Several personalities participated, including Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul. Dr. Abdul Kalam disclosed some facts to the scientists that participated in the conference. He said: The Western countries have declined to provide India with the latest technical know-how required by the military, especially by the Air Force. Under these circumstances, the government has decided to undertake new ventures based on our indigenous technical know-how. Accordingly, a committee of scientists from various important defense units, including the Defense Ministry and Air Force Research Wing, has been established. We need ultramodern technical know-how for our defense sector, because we know the position of the erstwhile Soviet Union since its fragmentation. Therefore, we cannot afford to be at anyone's mercy. The LCA light fighter aircraft will be manufactured by June 1996. The LCA is the smallest fighter plane used in the various parts of the world. It can be operated by one person. This type of aircraft is the lightest one; it is used for various purposes on the battle front. This aircraft, which can fly very fast and change altitudes very quickly, will be manufactured within the next two years.

Iran

Cabinet, Majles Deputies Hold Joint Session

NC2501113794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] The most important political, economic, social, and cultural problems of the country were discussed during the joint session of the cabinet and Majles deputies, which was held last night in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Our correspondent reports that during this session, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction on the formation of the joint cabinet-Majles deputies' session and underlined the need for coordination and the exchange of expert information between the legislative and executive branches before debates on the state budget at the Majles open session.

The president said that the government's economic policies conform to the wishes and directives of the esteemed leader. Stressing the need to implement these policies to achieve development and progress and end the budget's dependence on oil income, he stated: During the first Five-Year Plan, many of the country's serious problems were solved, and with the full support

of the esteemed leader, the Majles, and the clergymen, and with the extensive presence of the patient and resistant people of the country who have always displayed their political and social maturity in the various aspects of the Islamic revolution, during the Second Five-Year Plan steps will be taken toward economic progress and decreasing the people's welfare problems.

During the session, which was held at the president's office, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri also described the joint session of officials from the executive and legislative branches as significant because joint efforts and collective exchanges of views on the country's current and future problems are useful and significant. Listing the activities of the various Majles commissions during the reconstruction era, he stressed the Majles deputies' support for the views and directives of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and of the esteemed leader.

During the session, several Majles deputies also spoke about political, economic, social, and cultural issues.

Khamene'i's Meets With Turkmenistan President

NC2401165994 Tabriz Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Azeri 1230 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Ayatollah Khamene'i received President Saparmurad Niyazov on Thursday evening, 6 January. Niyazov's delegation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and (?Neshati), who is a member of the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation, which will hold talks with the visiting guests, attended the meeting. Ayatollah Khamene'i described Turkmenistan's declaration of independence as a divine blessing for the people of that republic and said he is convinced that the foundations of Turkmenistan will be gradually strengthened.

Khamene'i described Turkmenistan's rich natural resources and 10 million hectares of productive land as an opportunity for that republic to become developed. In addition, Khamene'i drew President Niyazov's attention to the opposition of exploitive forces to the improvement of cooperation among the regional countries and pointed to the importance of establishing friendly relations between Iran and Turkmenistan. He said: The Islamic peoples of Iran and Turkmenistan are linked by cultural relations. In view of their faith, religion, and traditions, close relations exist between them.

For his part, President Niyazov said that improved relations between the two countries are essential. He asserted: Turkmenistan's people are making an effort to restore their history and reinstate their freedom and cultural traditions.

Tehran-Turkmenistan Ties Viewed

NC2401134394 Tabriz Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Azeri 1230 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov's visit to Tehran was aimed at following up on the agreements concluded between Iran and Turkmenistan when President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited that republic in October 1993. During his stay, President Niyazov visited Esfahan, [name indistinct], Shiraz, and [name indistinct] island and became closely acquainted with Iran's economic opportunities and issues. Undoubtedly, the two countries' economic approach and resources can improve economic exchanges and cooperation between them.

The signing of some 20 cooperation agreements between Iran and Turkmenistan is very important for their bilateral relations. With these agreements we will try to quickly remove the effects of the 70-year long separation. In view of this, the protocol the two countries signed on cooperation in the supply of oil and natural gas, the establishment of sea and air links, and exchanges of agricultural products, commodities, and visitors is an important document.

The fact that Iran and Turkmenistan share a common border gives us an opportunity to intensify our economic and cultural interaction. The common historic and cultural ties between the two sides may further promote their relations.

Meanwhile, Iran is a bridge between Turkmenistan and the other republics in Central Asia and with the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Considering the efforts of several Western countries following the USSR's collapse to impose their economic policies on the republics of Central Asia, including Turkmenistan, the improvement of those republics' relations with the regional countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran, will be in their interest, for it will result in closer economic relations in which expansionist objectives have no place.

Turkmenistan has rich oil and natural gas resources. In view of that, it could have a special place among the republics in Central Asia. As for culture, Turkmenistan has been separated from its cultural roots as an Islamic country for more than 70 years but it has prepared the necessary conditions to return to its true nature and foundations. The establishment of a network of cultural relations and channels between Iran and Turkmenistan will be one of the first steps the two countries will take in the future.

The protocol between the two countries also calls for exchanges of students and experts, the establishment of libraries, book fairs, and cultural contacts, all of which indicates that Tehran and Ashgabat are determined to strengthen their relations.

It must be recalled that Turkmenistan became a member of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and other bodies established by the littoral countries in the Caspian Sea region after the USSR collapsed. As stressed

by the members of those organizations, participation in their activities, particularly in economic activities, is very important. Turkmenistan's opportunity to export its natural gas to foreign countries through Iran will play an important role in its effort to improve its economy. Meanwhile, the linking of Turkmenistan's railway system with those of Iran will enable that republic to reach Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Turkey; and that will give it an opportunity to reach the regional and international markets. Undoubtedly, the establishment of links with the region and the other parts of the world will not only serve Turkmenistan's own interests but also promote cooperation for economic development among the regional countries.

Velayati Meets With Afghan Foreign Minister

LD2401173194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Afghanistan's foreign minister and the minister of state for foreign affairs, who are in Tehran to attend the Economic Cooperation Organization session, met with the Foreign Minister Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati this evening. During this meeting the Afghan foreign minister presented a report on the situation in his country and conveyed greetings and gratitude from President Borhanoddin Rabbani for the stances adopted by the Islamic republic of Iran [IRI] and its efforts to resolve the dispute and to restore peace in Afghanistan.

Mr. Velayati, while expressing concern about the situation in Afghanistan, said: Unfortunately the power of the Afghan nation, instead of being utilized to rebuild and develop the country, is engaged in a conflict that has caused many losses and casualties. Mr. Velayati also declared the IRI's readiness to undertake any effort to restore peace and tranquility in Afghanistan and stressed the need for comprehensive and all-embracing solutions acceptable to all of the mujahedin groups.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets DPRK Parliament Speaker

LD2401160894 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Beijing, Jan. 24, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal, Consular and Parliamentary affairs Manuchehr Mottaki and Speaker of the Supreme Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Yang Hyong-sop [name as received] today discussed expansion of Tehran-Pyongyang parliamentary cooperation.

Mottaki who is visiting North Korea, said Yang's recent visit to Tehran had been successful, adding that Iran's Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri is also to visit DPRK in future.

Yang said his country supported the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to restore peace and security to the Persian Gulf region.

Efforts To End Nagarno-Karabakh War Viewed

NC2401163894 Tabriz Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Azeri 1230 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Vladimir Kazimirov, Russia's special envoy on the Karabakh problem, arrived in Tehran last week to hold talks on the Karabakh problem and convey his country's views on the solution of the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia. He held talks with Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and other government representatives on that crisis.

The Caucasus has been the site of political and military clashes for more than five years. Regardless of the mediation efforts of several countries, the clashes and tension in that region have not subsided. On the contrary, they have increased. Reports have said that a large percentage of Azerbaijan's territory has been occupied by the Armenians. More than 40,000 innocent people in Azerbaijan have either been killed or wounded and more than 1,000,000 others have been evicted from their places of residence to become refugees. In addition, the national monuments and establishments of the two sides have been destroyed as a result of the war, in which neither side stands to gain anything. Obviously, the prolongation of the present state of affairs will lead to destruction and weaken the two countries.

Considering the need for the establishment of security and peace and the removal of the crisis in the region, several countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, have made an effort to hold talks with the warring sides to end the fighting. In fact, several international organizations have urged them to hold bilateral talks to find a political way to end the clashes. In view of that, the objective behind Kazimirov's visit to Tehran was aimed at establishing an identity of views with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials on the situation in the Caucasus and finding a way to end the clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh. It will be recalled that the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials have tried political initiatives to persuade Azerbaijan and Armenia to resolve their problems right from the very beginning of the clashes. In fact, they have taken positive steps in that direction.

The alteration of recognized borders through the use of military pressure is unacceptable in the world. The maintenance of territorial integrity is regarded as a most important principle for peace and security. In view of that, the Islamic Republic of Iran has urged all the countries to resolve their problems through talks and reconciliation.

The political experts are convinced that the coordination that may be established between the Islamic Republic of

Iran and regional organizations and foreign countries, Russia in particular, will be an effective step to end the war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

ABRAR Sees Need for Tehran To Form Alliances

NC2201185794 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 12 Jan 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Solitude Means Vulnerability"]

[Text] How can a strong and effective alliance be formed in the Middle East?

In order to find the answer to this question, there are a few things that are clearly taking shape in the world today and that we should take into consideration.

There are no barriers today, and radio waves are rapidly moving to every corner of the world. An expert in telecommunications technology spoke about the possibility of receiving more than 160 television channels in Iran that are beamed by three satellites from space.

Information and intelligence barriers, too, have been breached and it is very difficult to keep anything a secret. To put it better, there is no such thing as confidential information and if information is kept secret in one society, another society somewhere else may come to know about it.

Under such conditions, isolation is tantamount to gradual destruction. Japan has become active in Asia and has extended the hand of friendship to Korea, China, and other countries in East Asia. Why?

Many reasons can be listed. While Japan is a member of the G-7, it is also thinking of joining other alliances with its neighbors so that it will not be alone. And even though it is a big economic and technological power, it nevertheless takes into consideration possible dangers in the future. There was a report in THE WASHINGTON POST, which is known to reflect the views of the White House, that: "America's war with Iran is imminent." Referring to remarks by a Pentagon official, the newspaper added: "For some time now, America has been making the necessary preparations for a possible war." The same Pentagon official also referred to America's stance on the expansion of Iran's influence in Muslim countries in Africa and Asia and said: "Iran's influence is so strong that Clinton had to apologize to the Muslims of the world for the few minutes that he met with Salman Rushdie."

Their fear is because of the Islamic Republic's influence. If this influence is condensed and gathered into an alliance, will anyone in the world be able to entertain thoughts of a possible war?

In forming the alliance, we should not be satisfied with slogans alone. There should be a clear and genuine political strategy. Thoughts and ideas can be put into action only when they conform to the realities of the world today.

We can clearly see the sensitivity of the issue when we put the above news item next to the following news item: "The 20th Israeli-American session for military and political coordination in dealing with crises and in fighting terrorism opened in Jerusalem yesterday."

Such sessions have been held every two years [as published] since the signing of the strategic agreement between Israel and America in 1983; and various issues such as the dispatching of American materiel, arms control in the Middle East, and stopping Iran's maneuvers are discussed and decisions are adopted.

When such political-military processes are taken into consideration, the need to form an alliance in the Middle East becomes more and more obvious. We should look at the past, at the future, and at the coming centuries and adopt a policy that is effective and free from fanaticism, sloganeering, and contradiction.

Solitude in the world today means gradual vulnerability.

France Accuses Tehran in Bakhtiar Assassination

NC2501065394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Britain's state radio says that French justice officials have once again accused Iran of involvement in Bakhtiar's assassination. London radio reports that officials of the French public prosecutor's office have said that Iran placed the necessary facilities at the disposal of Bakhtiar's assassins.

Recently France released two Iranians from French prisons. Following this, Paris became the target of harsh criticism by the United States, Britain, and some other Western countries.

Nepal

Koirala Meets Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister

BK2001115294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 20 (AFP)—Visiting Japanese Foreign Affairs Vice Minister Shozo Azuma met with Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala for an hour of bilateral talks Thursday, a foreign ministry source said.

Koirala and Azuma also discussed Japan's Asia-Pacific regional policy, the source added.

The vice minister, who arrived here early Thursday, signed two separate agreements to assist in improving

facilities at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport and the construction of the Tripureswore-Bagmati bridge.

The existing bridge was built with help from India, but has been weakened by heavy traffic.

The Japanese official also had an audience with King Birendra late Thursday at the royal palace.

A Japanese Embassy spokesman said the main purpose of Azuma's visit was to promote goodwill and mutual understanding and strengthen relations between the two countries.

Azuma is scheduled to leave Friday after attending the inauguration of another bridge here, which Japan also assisted in building.

He is to make stops in India and Pakistan at the weekend before returning to Japan.

Pakistan

Afghan Coordination Council Meetings Reviewed

Rabbani Opponents Present Peace Plan

BK2501065894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0636 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 25 (AFP)—Forces trying to oust president Borhanoddin Rabbani have put forward an eight-point plan to restore peace in Afghanistan, it was reported here Tuesday [25 Jan].

The plan, besides a ceasefire, calls for the resignations of both President Rabbani and his rival Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and the transfer of power to an interim council until general elections can be held, said the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

The formula was presented to Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Assef Ahmed Ali Monday [24 Jan] by a representative delegation of the Afghan Coordination Council which comprises factions opposed to the year-old Rabbani government.

It groups Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], Uzbek general Abdol Rashid Dostam's Jonbesh-e Melli or National Movement, the National Liberation Front of former president Sibghatullah Mojaddedi and a Shiite faction of Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party].

During the meeting which lasted 90 minutes, the council "responded positively" to a Pakistani proposal for a regional conference on Afghanistan to resolve the crisis.

Pakistan wants Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the Central Asian republics bordering Afghanistan to attend a regional conference.

In a nationwide broadcast Sunday [23 Jan] Rabbani thanked Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia for their efforts to end the three-week-old bloodshed in Kabul but said his forces would fight on against Dostam's militia until they surrendered.

Rabbani said he was ready to give the Afghan people the right to choose a new leadership through elections or by convening a traditional assembly of Afghan elders.

Regional Peace Conference Proposed

BK2401142294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Afghan leaders have responded positively to Pakistan's proposal for hosting a regional peace summit or regional peace conference on Afghanistan. This was stated by the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, while talking to newsmen in Islamabad today prior to his departure for Tehran to attend ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] ministerial meeting beginning tomorrow. He said the representatives of Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party], Jonbesh-e Melli [National Movement], Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], and Jabha-e Melli [National Liberation Front] put up a seven-point proposal for the solution of the Afghanistan problem. The foreign minister said Pakistan cannot decide itself as it has no favorites. He said it is a matter for the Afghans to decide.

The foreign minister said he will brief the ECO foreign ministers on the latest developments in Afghanistan and human rights violations by Indian occupation forces in occupied Kashmir. The ECO council of ministers will consider a broad range of subjects, including the establishment of ECO trade and development company, shipping company, airlines, and insurance company.

Minister Offers To Host Peace Meeting

BK2401165094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, held talks in Islamabad today with some of the leaders of Afghan groups on the latest situation in Afghanistan. During the talks, he offered that Pakistan will be ready to host a regional peace conference to ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan. Later, talking to newsmen, the foreign minister said this conference will be possible if all the Afghan sides agree to a cease-fire. He said Pakistan has heard the point of view of both sides in the conflict in Kabul and told them that Pakistan has no favorites and it stands with the Afghan nation. At this stage, if all Afghan parties need Pakistan's help for reconciliation, it is available.

The Afghan prime minister, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, has welcomed Pakistan's proposal to convene a regional peace conference.

In Afghanistan itself, there are reports of sporadic fighting between the warring factions in Kabul. Both

sides used artillery and rocket fire on each other's positions in Pul-e Mahmoodkhan, Bala Hesar, and Microryan.

Afghan Leaders Reportedly 'Inflexible'

BK2501073994 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad: The government after a meeting with a delegation of important Afghan leaders on Monday [24 Jan] concluded that their positions remained inflexible and that they during a meeting with the Foreign Minister, did not demonstrate any flexibility on a ceasefire.

The five-member Afghan delegation include Dr Hashmetullah, ANLF, son of Sibghatullah Mojaddidi and leader of the delegation, Dr Talib, Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party], Abdul Hadi Organdiwal, Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], Mr Zari, Jonbesh-e Melli [National Movement], and Haji Mangal Hussain, Hezb-e Eslami. The foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali was assisted by the Foreign Secretary Sharyar M. Khan, DG Afghan Desk, Kazi Humayun, Director Mr Aslam and Ambassador in Afghanistan Amir Usman. [names and titles as published]

Senior officials at the Foreign Office said it was significant that the Afghan leaders themselves had included a representative of General Dostam. "This means recognition for Dostam by the Afghans themselves and now all parties and forces inside Afghanistan are represented", the sources added.

The delegation which represented parties opposed to President Rabbani continued to insist that it would be only after the resignation of President Rabbani that Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar also leave his office.

Source said, "government seems determined to continue to keep borders closed as this will give it some leverage against the Afghans. The Afghan leaders must realise that they cannot keep on fighting and sending their women and children here. Now the foreign donors are not helping and Pakistan still has the refugees for the last thirteen years." The sources said that there have been repeated suggestions by the foreign office to the government to open up the borders. Meanwhile, the Afghan leaders discussed with the foreign office the different formulas they have to bring about a lasting ceasefire inside Afghanistan.

Some of these steps include 1) resignations of the President and Prime Minister, 2) evacuation of all military groups from Kabul, 3) security of Kabul to be given to commanders of Kabul, 4) the leaders should meet to form an interim government, 5) the interim government should call a Shoora. PPI adds from Peshawar: The Saudi ambassador to Afghanistan, Sheikh Ukabi held an important in camera meeting here with three prominent personalities from different Afghan mojahedin factions and discussed at length the possibilities of bringing an end to the ongoing bloody war for the capture of Kabul.

The secret meeting between Saudi ambassador, the political advisor to Hezb-e Eslami Qazi Muhammad Ami Waqad, Governor of Nangrahar Province of Afghanistan, Haji Abdul Qadeer and Commander Jalaluddin Haqqani of Hezb-e Eslami Yunus Khalis was held here in univerisity town at the Saud Red Crescent Society office.

Bhutto Reaffirms Commitment to Kashmir Cause

BK2401164294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1433 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on 24 January; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most compassionate and the merciful. My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. At the time of the establishment of Pakistan, the founder of Pakistan, the great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah said Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan. Ever since independence day, the hearts of the Pakistani people are with the people of Kashmir till today. The settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions for the Kashmiri people has been the cornerstone of our foreign policy.

Announcing my priorities after being elected prime minister, I described the settlement of the Kashmir issue as my foremost priority. Only a day after taking my oath as prime minister, I went to Cyprus in order to hold discussions with the Commonwealth leaders on the Kashmir problem. During my minor pilgrimage to Mecca, I drew the attention of the rulers of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates toward Indian atrocities in Kashmir. The Kashmir problem remained a priority for the government even during my visits to Iran, Turkey, China, and Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Thank God the world is getting apprised of the human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir. India, until now, has not refrained from using every inhuman machination to crush the Kashmiri people's movement. We initiated a dialogue with India to bring home our stand to the world. The objective of the dialogue was to find a solution to Kashmir issue by peaceful means, not by violence, and in accordance with the UN resolutions. We hoped India would lessen tyranny and repression in occupied Kashmir, but, regrettably, this was not done. As many as 50 innocent people were martyred in Sopor only a day after the announcement of the start of the new round of negotiations. The announcement about the lifting of the siege of the Hazratbal Shrine was not found to be correct. Even today, Indian forces are present around this sacred shrine and are destroying its sanctity. Despite negotiations, Indian atrocities continue in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India's objective appears to be something different. By staging the show of a dialogue, India wants to distract international public opinion and attention from its atrocities in order to

crush the Kashmiri people's struggle free of international pressure. This is not acceptable to Pakistan. We cannot leave our Kashmiri brothers and sisters alone nor can we allow the intensification of repression under the cover of negotiations. India will have to end tyranny and repression in the Kashmir Valley to prove its sincerity. Negotiations will remain devoid of any results until the number of Indian troops in the Kashmir Valley is reduced, until innocent Kashmiris are released from Indian jails, and until international human rights organizations are allowed to go into Kashmir.

My dear countrymen, we will continue the process of mobilizing international public opinion against India's continued atrocities against our Kashmiri brethren. Pakistan will identify human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir at the UN Human Rights Commission. I, myself, will put forward Kashmir's case at the Human Rights Commission on 1 February. The objective of our efforts is to mobilize international public opinion and to awaken the international conscience. We know that international public opinion adopts double standards on certain occasions. The world community has not been able to take any effective step in connection with Bosnia; and even in case of Kashmir, the world's record is not that good. We, however, have to continue our political, diplomatic, and moral efforts in this changing world. We are confident that these efforts will ultimately be crowned with success and the Kashmiris will definitely achieve their right of self-determination, God willing. We know that nobody can crush the spirit of freedom.

When the Indian foreign secretary came to Pakistan, I told him that negotiations with us will be fruitful only when India is ready to find a political solution to the Kashmir problem; but Kashmir is presently burning. The Kashmiris are being massacred indiscriminately. As soon as the Kashmiri people adopted the path of struggle to achieve freedom from Indian subjugation, a reign of terror was let loose against them. Youths, children, and the aged are being made targets of violence. They are being made the targets of bullets in spite of the fact that they are unarmed.

Women are molested and thousands of innocent people are put behind bars. May I ask what is their fault? Their only fault is that they demand the right of a plebiscite. Giving them the right of plebiscite was decided by the United Nations as far back as 1948. Both India and Pakistan are committed to this decision. India has deployed 600,000 troops in the Kashmir valley to deny the Kashmiris the right of a plebiscite. Two more divisions are now being sent there. After all, how many more troops will they send there? When the United States could not control Vietnam by its forces; when the Soviet Union could not control Afghanistan; how can India overcome the Kashmiri fighters? India cannot hide its failures by raising a new iron curtain [preceding two words in English] in the new world. Amnesty International, Asia Watch, Physicians for Human Rights, International Federation for Human Rights are only a few organizations who have provided documentary proof of the Indian atrocities. Members of Parliament of various countries have raised their voice against the human rights violations in Kashmir. These voices are getting louder with the passage of time.

We will also raise our voice in unison with the Kashmiri people's voice to carry forward their movement. The Kashmiri people's anguish is our anguish. Their struggle is our struggle. To express solidarity with this struggle is our obligation as well as our right in accordance with international law. We constituted the National Assembly's Committee on Kashmir to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people's struggle and to draw the attention of international public opinion to the Kashmir issue. All political parties are represented in this committee, which is a proof that the Pakistani nation has complete ideological solidarity on the Kashmir issue. The committee is headed by the veteran politician, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, whose political experience is a treasure for all of us. The National Assembly's Committee on Kashmir has decided that a total strike will be observed in Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, and the occupied Jammu and Kashmir on 5 February. The Government of Pakistan fully supports this decision. While supporting this call, I appeal to the people of Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, and the occupied Jammu and Kashmir to observe a protest strike on 5 February. This strike will provide proof that the Kashmiri people want to settle the Kashmir issue through a plebiscite in accordance with UN resolutions.

Kashmir is a jugular vein of Pakistan, and we will not allow our jugular vein to be trampled upon by brute force. The 5 February strike will show to the world that the people of Pakistan and our Kashmir brothers and sisters are inseparable nations. The present democratic government considers Kashmir not only a part of Pakistan's history, but also its heritage. The people's government has the same stand on Kashmir as that of the founder of Pakistan, Great Leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah, and as that of the people's leader—Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The people are aware that in the past the people's leader, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, had infused new life into this issue and highlighted it at the international level. I will move forward with your help, taking with me the mission [preceding word in English] of these two personalities. I as a mother, sister, and daughter understand the sorrow of every mother, sister, and daughter of Kashmir and offer prayers for the success of every father, brother, and son of Kashmir. I want to assure the Kashmiri brothers and sisters that the people's government considers the freedom of Kashmir a sacred duty. We want every Muslim of this soil to live an honorable and free life. A Muslim, whether from Bosnia, Palestine, or Kashmir, does not live a complete life without freedom. Today every Muslim wants to see Kashmir independent and, God willing, that day is not far when Kashmir will be with us. I want to assure all of you that whatever happens, no power on earth can prevent us from extending moral, diplomatic, and political support to the Kashmiris in their movement. The blood of martyrs is proof that we will not deviate from this pledge.

Long Live Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

Fire Bombing Protests LTTE Executions

BK1701124494 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] watchers in Colombo were yesterday convinced that the recent fire bombing of the Tiger Organization's Eela Nadu office in Paris was an overt signal to Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran to desist from carrying out the execution of his one time deputy Gopalaswamy Mahendraraja alias Mahattaya earlier scheduled yesterday. Mahattaya and around 120 of his followers including Dilip Yogi were to face execution yesterday on the orders of Prabhakaran. This date was confirmed [words indistinct] LTTE's coordinating committee in Paris headed by Lawrence Thilakar and the Sri Lanka's high commission in London received written confirmation of the impending executions.

Meanwhile, reports reaching Colombo say that Tamil residents abroad were supporting Mahattaya and Yogi and made every effort to prevent their execution including bringing it to the notice of the Human Rights Commission as well as with foreign governments so that pressure could be exerted on the LTTE in this regard. There has been several repeated, but yet unconfirmed reports that Mahattaya has already been executed. Other reports place the date of execution as January 16 believed by analysts to be a congenial day because it is Mahattaya's birthday and the first anniversary of the Indian Navy's interception of the LTTE's ammunition ship in which incident Sadasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, was reported to have committed suicide in January last year.

Eighteen LTTE frontliners who participated in the attack on Pooneryn camp complex including (Kartik) and (Kaushalia) have surrendered to the Police Special Task Force. Military sources said that they decided to surrender as a protest against Prabhakaran's decision to execute several LTTE leaders including Mahattaya and Yogi. They have also decided to cooperate with the government in elections to the local bodies in the East and have expressed their gratitude to the government for its concern over [word indistinct]. (Kartik) was in charge of the operation in which 23 soldiers of the Mandewa camp was killed [words indistinct]. (Kaushalia) was in charge of training youth Tigers.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.